

GC
974.701
M76FRO,
PT.1

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION



3 1833 01125 9436

GC
974.701
M76FRO,
PT.1



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2015

4487

HISTORY

OF

Montgomery County

N.Y.

EMBRACING

EARLY DISCOVERIES; THE ADVANCE OF CIVILIZATION; THE LABORS
AND TRIUMPHS OF SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON; THE INCEPTION
AND DEVELOPMENT OF MANUFACTURES; WITH TOWN
AND LOCAL RECORDS; ALSO MILITARY ACHIEVE-
MENTS OF MONTGOMERY PATRIOTS.

REVISED AND EDITED

By WASHINGTON FROTHINGHAM

pt. 1

Experience is by industry achieved,
And perfected by the swift course of time.

— SHAKESPEARE.

SYRACUSE, N. Y.:

D. MASON & CO., PUBLISHERS AND PRINTERS.

1892.

PREFACE.

COUNTIES are the chief divisions of all the states in the Union except South Carolina, where they are called "districts," and also Louisiana, where they are called "parishes." In England the same divisions are sometimes called "shires," and hence the term "shire town" is often applied to the seat of the county buildings. It need hardly be questioned whether Montgomery county has not just claim to a printed record of that history of which all its citizens may be proud. It was with the desire of doing this act of justice that the editor assumed the task which he has accomplished laboriously, and he hopes successfully.

The publishers detailed a staff of faithful literateurs to each town and their reports are based on personal inspection, in order to insure accuracy. These reports have been thoroughly revised by the editor, who has made every effort to render this work authority in all matters within its scope, and especially in reference to the manufacturing interest.

While engaged in this task he has become deeply interested in the town histories, which portray the labors of the pioneers, and also in the personal and family sketches which give variety to the work, and he has no doubt that this will prove an attractive as well as a useful volume.

The lover of history will see that the record includes the earliest discoveries and all that subsequent detail of events which gradually led to our present greatness, and the justice done Sir William Johnson in these pages is not the least point in the importance of this work.

PREFACE.

COUNTIES are the chief divisions of all the states in the Union except South Carolina, where they are called "districts," and also Louisiana, where they are called "parishes." In England the same divisions are sometimes called "shires," and hence the term "shire town" is often applied to the seat of the county buildings. It need hardly be questioned whether Montgomery county has not just claim to a printed record of that history of which all its citizens may be proud. It was with the desire of doing this act of justice that the editor assumed the task which he has accomplished laboriously, and he hopes successfully.

The publishers detailed a staff of faithful literateurs to each town and their reports are based on personal inspection, in order to insure accuracy. These reports have been thoroughly revised by the editor, who has made every effort to render this work authority in all matters within its scope, and especially in reference to the manufacturing interest.

While engaged in this task he has become deeply interested in the town histories, which portray the labors of the pioneers, and also in the personal and family sketches which give variety to the work, and he has no doubt that this will prove an attractive as well as a useful volume. The lover of history will see that the record includes the earliest discoveries and all that subsequent detail of events which gradually led to our present greatness, and the justice done Sir William Johnson in these pages is not the least point in the importance of this work.

While the editor acknowledges the faithful service done by his assistants, he has to a great degree recast their work in order to give the volume a uniformity of style in which their individuality is merged. His object has been to present a simple narrative and let the facts thus recorded speak for themselves.

One of the most thrilling features in the work is its military history, which shows that the patriotism of the revolution was inherited by the heroes of the Union army and reminds us that

Freedom's battles, once begun ;
Bequeathed from bleeding sire to son,
Though baffled oft, are ever won.

In preparing the individual record it was decided to omit all titles. "Hon." has become so cheap and vulgar that it is almost disrespectful, and in this omission the editor only follows the example of William C. Bryant, who never permitted it to appear in the columns of the *Evening Post*. Other titles share the same fate, because we respect character too highly to add decorations.

Those who know anything of bookmaking will readily see that the cost of such a work must be very great. The publishers have spared no expense, and it may be reasonably claimed that they have fulfilled in the highest degree the duty they assumed. Hence both editor and publisher now unite in the expectation that this history will give full satisfaction to the citizens of Montgomery county and all other careful and intelligent readers.

PERSONAL SKETCH.

GENERAL RICHARD MONTGOMERY was born in the north of Ireland, December 2, 1736, and early displayed a military taste. In his eighteenth year he entered the army and was soon ordered to Canada where the British were operating against the French who were eventually subjugated. Montgomery served there with distinction and was thence ordered to the West Indies where he also won a record for gallantry. He had, however, a desire to become a citizen of New York and this led him hither on the return of peace. He settled at Rhinebeck and won the hand of Miss Jane Livingston, daughter of Judge Robert R. Livingston, and immediately became a leader in patriotic opinion.

He represented Dutchess county in the Provincial Congress and on the opening of the Revolution was made a general and ordered to the campaign against Canada. He bade farewell to his young wife with the words "You shall never blush for your Montgomery" and his brief career indeed is one of which our nation is justly proud.

He made a bold march through Canada conquering Chambly and Montreal, and these successes gave hope of eventual triumph. The illness of Schuyler threw upon him the entire command and he pressed forward with the determination to capture Quebec. Christmas (1775) found him planning an attack by storm, which was carried out the day before New Year. It began at midnight and the party which Montgomery led carried the first barricade. He then pressed forward to the second but was mortally wounded by the discharge of a gun, and two of his aids shared his fate. Aaron Burr, who held a lieutenant's commission, was in the attack and bore off the dying commander and the attack failed. Thus fell in his fortieth year the gallant Montgomery. His sad fate awoke national regret and Congress ordered a monument which was executed in Paris under care of Franklin, our ambassador in that city. When peace was declared the monument was sent to New York and St. Paul's church was designated as a suitable locality. This monument is interesting as the very first erected to a revolutionary hero. The peculiar design will attract the eye of all who have an historic taste. The inscription is as follows :

"This monument is erected by order of Congress, 25th of January, 1776, to transmit to posterity a grateful remembrance of the patriotic conduct, enterprise, and perseverance of Major-General Richard Montgomery, who, after a series of successes amid the most discouraging difficulties, fell in the attack on Quebec, 31st of December, 1775, aged 37 years."

It was not, however, until 1818, nearly forty-three years after his death, that his remains were deposited beneath this monument. In the spring of that year a request on behalf of his widow was made of Sir John Sherbrooke, Governor-General of Canada, to permit his remains to be removed from Quebec, where they had been buried immediately after the storming of the city, and taken to New York. This request was acceded

to, and on the 16th of June, 1818, they were disinterred under the direction of Mr. James Thompson, one of the engineers who assisted in burying the general, and who identified the coffin. On the 9th of July they reached Albany, where they lay in state in the capitol. The next day under military escort they were received on the steamer Richmond and taken to New York.

Mrs. Montgomery survived her husband for nearly fifty years. After his death she built an elegant residence on the Hudson, near Tivoli, which she called Montgomery Hall, and from the piazza of which, more than forty-two years after his death, she saw the steamer which bore his body, glide, with tolling bell and colors at half-mast, slowly past. As she witnessed this mournful pageant how the childless widow, who for so many years had kept his memory green in her heart, must have recalled their last parting, when in the prime of manhood, he tore himself from her arms, and, kissing her, uttered the above quoted farewell, "You shall never blush for your Montgomery." How gallantly he redeemed that pledge history tells. His last words were, "Men of New York, you will not fear to follow where your General leads. March on!"

In 1784, the year after the close of the Revolution, the legislature of this state changed Tryon county to Montgomery in honor of the hero of Quebec, and since then seventeen other counties have been thus named in as many states. None of them have an equally important historic record with our own Montgomery county whose history is given in the following pages.

FEMALE NAMES.

One of the peculiar features which has attracted the editor's attention while reviewing the family histories found in this volume is the fanciful female names which occur. He adds some of them, so that if any of our readers should be required to name a child a choice of unique character could easily be made.

Alzina,	Byancy,	Emiletta,	Luraine,	Mardulla,	Rosella,
Arwillma,	Birdella,	Elda,	Luemma,	Mouy,	Rexie,
Atlanta,	Bethiah,	Emanna,	Lavenna,	Maxa,	Roby,
Andalusia,	Belia,	Ervinia,	Launette,	Maruva,	Ruie,
Alzetta,	Cimberline,	Elba,	Ladenna,	Metella,	Rosetta,
Alvia,	Caddie,	Forba,	La Pearl,	Myrta,	Selma,
Alpha,	Clemenza,	Florella,	Lifitte,	Mabyn,	Submit,
Avelina,	Celestia,	Francana,	Lula,	Masia,	Sabia,
Althena,	Calista,	Fidelia,	Lory,	Meeta,	Sena,
Almena,	Catha,	Gerta,	Lenna,	Nina,	Samarie,
Alfraetta,	Carriebel,	Greta,	Lura,	Orva,	Smira,
Arvelma,	Christia,	Georgena,	Luetta,	Oltana,	Suzette,
Abbatonia,	Crete,	Georgia,	Luthera,	Orinda,	Thankful,
Artimetta,	Dena,	Geta,	Lasera,	Orvia,	Toinette,
Andella,	Della,	Harma,	Lodusky,	Orvetta,	Toica,
Alwilda,	Delcia,	Heppie,	Lisa,	Percella,	Tinetta,
Arvilla,	Doretha,	Hearty,	Leona,	Philura,	Ticy,
Azuba,	Delotta,	Hazel,	Lorena,	Philinda,	Vergie,
Annice,	Deeny,	Ione,	Lelah,	Perlina,	Viva,
Aurella,	Dilla,	Idela,	Lenetta,	Puah,	Villa,
Armeina,	Delora,	Ioma,	Lucina,	Prudy,	Valira,
Aptuma,	Demetra,	Ivy,	Loli,	Rulianna,	Violetta,
Anhina,	Delight,	Isora,	Marilla,	Rocklin,	Violetta,
Adell,	Essie,	Jasena,	Mina,	Regnia,	Vanella,
Arvillura,	Elza,	Kizzie,	Milsena,	Roseltha,	Wannetta,
Bertelle,	Elva,	Lylynda,	Milisa,	Rowellen,	Zarneh,
Beta,	Evanna,	Ladora,	Morena,	Rozeda,	Zelphia,
Betelia,	Elthera,	Lovisa,	Marinda,	Romea,	Zaida.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ANTIQUITIES.

In an old historic country there is a natural tendency to honor the past and to preserve its memorials, and this sentiment has had its influence in Montgomery county. The old German families have in most instances preserved the Bibles which their ancestors brought from the fatherland, and in all probability there are more of these antique scriptures in this county than in any other district of equal size in our country.

Many other curiosities of the past are cherished here. Major Van Horne of Fonda has the papers of his great-grandfather, Major Jellis Fonda, who served under Sir William Johnson, including the ledgers and account books which Major Fonda kept while engaged in trade. They are probably the oldest books of the kind in the entire state, and were kept in a very neat and even handsome manner. Mr. E. T. Schenck, another descendant, has Major Fonda's sword.

Alfred De Graff has the Masonic emblem worn by his great-grandfather, Colonel Frederick Vischer, which is one of the oldest memorials of St. Patrick's Lodge. He also has a silver dollar coined more than a century and a half ago, and which has been in the family for five generations.

The Maybee family have some of the furniture used by Sir William at Johnson Hall and Dr. Abbott (now of New York) has other memorials of Sir William which were preserved by Amaziah Rust. Judge Rust was a prominent citizen of Johnstown, which, of course, is included in old Montgomery, and Mr. A. S. Van Voast of the same place has Sir William's prayer book.

Mrs. Striker of Tribes Hill has a large copper tea kettle which was stolen from Lieutenant-Colonel Adam Fonda (her grandfather) during Sir John Johnson's raid, and also a life-size portrait of one of her ancestors, which is probably the oldest work of art in the Mohawk Valley.

Commodore Starin has quite a museum of historic relics which we have not space to detail. Many of these are from his ancestors, while others have been presented or gathered by his own taste, until ancient books, ancient weapons, utensils and furniture form a large and curious collection.

Mr. Samuel C. Frey, of Palatine Bridge, has a large collection of Indian curiosities, but above all he has the original minutes of the Tryon county committee, which is one of the most remarkable manuscripts in the state and is of inestimable value as a relic of the times that tried men's souls.

Cashier A. G. Richmond of Canajoharie has a large and unusually rich collection of antiquities, gathered in this county and elsewhere, and representing Indian customs and warfare, with other curiosities equally rare.

Professor Cryder of the same place has become deeply interested in the specialty of antique powder horns and has found this pursuit one of great interest. Being an artist he has made drawings of all such implements, and has nearly two hundred thus portrayed. One of these represents the powder horn that Christian Schell used in his famous fight with the Indians.

The Red Men at Fonda have some interesting relics and it may be added that Mr. Alfred W. Shull of Stone Arabia has the bell that formerly belonged to the old church at Caughnawaga. It has been recast (owing to a fracture), but otherwise is identical.

Other interesting memorials might be mentioned did our limited space permit, but we must close adding, however, the interesting fact that the well-known antiquary, Jephthah R. Simms, made a collection of historic curiosities which the state purchased at an expense of \$5,000, and hence a large number of Montgomery county antiquities are now preserved in Albany.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

- The Subject — Origin of Tryon County — Name Changed to Montgomery — Extent and Boundaries — Counties Formed Directly From Montgomery — Districts and Towns Organized — Description of the County — Physical Features and Principal Water Courses — Geological Formation..... 17

CHAPTER II.

- European Discoveries and Explorations -- The French in Canada -- The Puritans in New England -- The Dutch in New York -- Advance in Civilization Toward the Central Mohawk Valley -- Champlain Invades the Territory of the Mohawks -- The First Battle -- Dutch Troubles with Indians -- Grant of the Province of New York -- Conquest and Overthrow of the Dutch in New Netherlands..... 21

CHAPTER III.

- The Indian Occupation -- The Iroquois Confederacy -- The Five and Six Nations of Indians -- Location and Names -- Character and Power of the League -- Social and Domestic Habits -- The Mohawks -- Treatment of the Jesuit Missionaries -- Discouraging Efforts at Civilization -- Names of Missionaries -- Alliance with the English -- Downfall of the Confederacy..... 26

CHAPTER IV.

- The French and Indian Wars -- Causes Leading to Them -- English and French Jealousies -- Failure of Lord de Courcelles' Expedition against the Mohawks -- Corlear Saves the French from Destruction -- Iroquois Seek a Peace -- French Treachery -- The Peace of Breda -- War Renewed -- Iroquois ask English Protection -- Invasion of Canada -- Schenectady Destroyed -- The Mohawks show Friendship -- English Colonies Aroused to Action -- Services of John and Peter Schuyler -- Frontenac Invades the Mohawk Country -- The Castles Captured -- Treaty of Ryswick -- Peace Again Restored..... 31

CHAPTER V.

- Rivalry between the French and English -- Relative Justice of their Claims--How Defined by Sir William Johnson -- Both Nations make Treaties with the Iroquois -- Provisions of the Treaty of Ryswick -- French Encroachments beyond the Treaty line -- War Declared in 1774 -- French Outrages in the Mohawk Country -- Treaty of Peace at Aix-la-Chapelle -- The Situation -- The Albany Convention -- King Hendrick's Speech -- Preparation for War -- Expeditions of 1755 -- Services of General Johnson -- Shirley's Conduct -- Battle at Lake George -- Death of Hendrick -- Distinction of Sir William Johnson..... 37

CHAPTER VI.

- French and English War Continued -- Results of the Campaigns in 1756 -- French Successes in that and Succeeding Years -- The Iroquois Divided -- Johnson's efforts to Unite Them -- Webb's Disgraceful Conduct -- The Mohawk Valley Invaded -- Palatine Village destroyed -- Abercrombie's Neglect and Inefficiency -- Campaigns of 1757-58 -- English Successes -- French Reverses -- Johnson's Achievements -- Extinction of the French Power in America..... 46

CHAPTER VII.

- Early Settlement of the Mohawk Valley -- Van Corlear's Patent -- Settlement at Schenectady -- German Palatines at Schoharie Creek, at Canajoharie and Palatine Village -- Their Character and Customs -- Located there as a Defense against the French Invasions -- The Plan not Fully Successful -- Sir William Johnson forms the Germans into Militia Companies -- French and Indian Land Grants -- Charters of New York and Pennsylvania compared -- The Former a Royal Province -- Patents Issued Including Lands in Montgomery County..... 53

CHAPTER VIII.

- SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON, BARONET..... 51

CHAPTER IX.

- Situation in Tryon County from the Close of the French War to the Revolution -- British Oppression Causes Discontent -- The Stamp Act -- Duties Levied on other Commodities -- The Boston Tea Party -- First Congress at Philadelphia -- New York Opposes the Action of Congress -- Districts of Tryon County -- Guy Johnson Disperses the Meeting at Caughnawaga -- Attack upon Jacob Sammons -- Action of Loyalists -- Guy Park Fortified -- General Meeting of the Tryon County Committee -- Its Object -- Guy Johnson Departs for Canada -- Conduct of Sir John -- He Fortifies the Hall and Arms the Highlanders -- His Arrest, Parole and Flight to Canada -- The Estate Confiscated -- Character and Duties of the Committees of Safety..... 71

CHAPTER X.

Beginning of the Revolution — The British Influence — The Iroquois — Oneidas Remain Neutral — Organization of Militia in Tryon County — St. Leger Invades the Mohawk Valley — The Battle of Oriskany and Fort Schuyler — The British Defeated — The First Pension — Indian Depredations in 1778 — Campaigns of Sullivan and Clinton in 1779 — Sir John Johnson Invades the Valley in 1780 — Visits Johnstown and Secures his Plate — Detail of his Raid.. 81

CHAPTER XI.

Additional Depredations in the Mohawk Valley — Sir John Johnson again Invades the Region — The Battle at Stone Arabia — Van Rensselaer's Cowardly Conduct — Condition of the Inhabitants after the Raid — Governor Clinton sends Colonel Willett to Protect the Valley — Invasion by Brant and Butler — Defeat of the latter by Willett's Troops — Battle at Johnstown — The Enemy Routed — Death of Walter Butler — End of Hostilities in the Mohawk Valley 93

CHAPTER XII.

Condition of the Mohawk Valley at the close of the Revolution — Mohawk Indians Forfeit their Lands to the State — Return of the Tories — The Treatment by the Mohawk Committee — Settlement of the Region by New Englanders — Tryon County Changed to Montgomery — First County Officers — County Buildings — Counties Formed from Montgomery..... 99

CHAPTER XIII.

Situation in the Mohawk Valley Prior to the War — Its Peace and Prosperity — Events Preceding the War — Causes Leading to it — British Aggressions — American Retaliations — Declaration of War — Militia Called into Service — Regiments Formed in the Valley — Their Services — The Return of Peace . 104

CHAPTER XIV.

County Organizations — Tryon and Montgomery Counties Briefly Reviewed — The County Seat Moved to Fonda — Dissatisfaction in the Northern Towns — Fulton County Created — Montgomery County Civil List..... 107

CHAPTER XV.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DURING THE REBELLION..... 115

CHAPTER XVI.

Internal Improvements — Early Navigation of the Mohawk — The Inland Lock and Navigation Company — The Erie Canal — Railroad Building — The Montgomery County Agricultural Society..... 137

CHAPTER XVII.

THE LEGAL PROFESSION IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY..... 143

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY.....	160
--	-----

CHAPTER XIX.

THE TOWN OF AMSTERDAM.....	172
----------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XX.

THE TOWN OF MINDEN.....	216
-------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXI.

THE TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE	241
-------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXII.

THE TOWN OF MOHAWK.....	261
-------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE TOWN OF GLEN.....	280
-----------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXIV.

THE TOWN OF FLORIDA.....	294
--------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXV.

THE TOWN OF ST. JOHNSVILLE.....	306
---------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXVI.

THE TOWN OF PALATINE.. ..	317
---------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXVII.

THE TOWN OF ROOT....	332
----------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXVIII.

THE TOWN OF CHARLESTON	344
------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XXIX.

BIOGRAPHICAL.....	350
-------------------	-----

 PART II.

FAMILY SKETCHES.....	1
INDEX.....	327
INDEX TO FAMILY SKETCHES.....	314

HISTORY

OF

Montgomery County.

CHAPTER I.

The Subject — Origin of Tryon County — Name Changed to Montgomery — Extent and Boundaries — Counties Formed Directly From Montgomery — Districts and Towns Organized — Description of the County — Physical Features and Principal Water Courses — Geological Formation.

ALL hail Montgomery County! Yes, all hail the scene round which cluster such thrilling memories, and happy will the historian be if his researches reflect additional honor upon such a storied territory—one indeed which originally included a third of the entire state. And now, reader, let us look at some of the more prominent historic facts.

In 1772, three years before the outbreak of the Revolution, the legislature of New York divided the original county of Albany, creating two additional counties, one of which was called Tryon, in honor of William Tryon, the British governor of the province. What an immense county it was! embracing all the territory of the state which lay west of the Delaware river and a line extending thence north through Schoharie county, and along the east line of Montgomery, Fulton and Hamilton (as now existing), and thence direct to Canada. Governor Tryon became so offensive to the victorious Americans in the Mohawk valley that, in 1784, the name was changed to Montgomery, in honor

of the patriotic American general who fell in the attempt to capture Quebec. In 1788 the boundaries of the then existing counties of the state were accurately defined, and Montgomery county was made to include all the territory of the state west of Ulster, Albany, Washington and Clinton counties.

The first territorial reduction of old Montgomery was made in 1789 when Ontario was erected, including within its boundaries all that part of the state west of Seneca Lake and amounting in the aggregate to more than two million acres. In 1791 Montgomery was again reduced in area by the creation of Hamilton, Herkimer, Otsego and Tioga counties, leaving only the territory which it now includes with that of Fulton county. Hamilton, however, was restored to the mother county in 1797, but it was again set off in 1816. In 1838 Fulton county was erected and included within its boundaries more than one-half the territory which then remained to Montgomery county. In this manner old Montgomery has been reduced from an original area of about eight million acres (roughly estimated) to its present 289,040 acres, or 436 square miles.

Soon after the creation of Tryon county (March 24, 1772), its inhabited territory was divided into five provisional districts, for the purpose of government, namely: Mohawk, Canajoharie, Palatine, German Flats and Kingsland. The sixth district of the county—old England—including lands west of the Susquehanna river, was formed April 3, 1775. On March 9, 1780, that part of the Mohawk district lying north of the river was set off under the name of Caughnawaga. In 1788 this district was formed into a township and included all of the county lying north of the Mohawk and east of a line extending from the Nose to Canada. Five years later (1793) this town was divided and Amsterdam, Mayfield, Broadalbin and Johnstown were organized from its territory. When this division took place, the old name (Caughnawaga) was limited to that ancient village which forms a part of Fonda.

Canajoharie, both as a district and town, has been preserved in name since its original formation in 1772. In 1788 this district became a town, but its territory has since in part been taken in the creation of other towns—Minden in 1798, and an addition in 1849, and a part of Root in 1823.

Palatine was at first a district called Stone Arabia. This was in 1772, but in 1775 the name was changed to Palatine. It embraced all the territory between the "Little Falls" and the Nose, and extended from the Mohawk to Canada. The towns of Salisbury, Stratford, Oppenheim, and Ephratah have been formed, in whole or in part, from the original Palatine.

Mohawk district originally included all the territory between the eastern boundary of Tryon county and a north and south line crossing the river at Anthony's Nose, and extending north and south between these lines as far as the limits of the county. Caughnawaga, north of the river, was taken from this vast tract in 1788 and subdivided, as has been stated, in 1793. The present town of Mohawk was formed from Johnstown in 1837, while Johnstown itself was originally a part of Caughnawaga, and the latter was a part of the still older district of Mohawk.

Charleston and Florida were both formed from lands of the old Mohawk district by an act passed March 12, 1793.

Glen was formed from Charleston April 10, 1823. Minden was taken from Canajoharie March 22, 1798. Danube (Herkimer county) was taken from Minden in 1817. Root was formed from Canajoharie and Charleston, January 27, 1823, and St. Johnsville from Oppenheim, April 18, 1838, but it is a part of the old Palatine district.

Having thus briefly mentioned the gradual method by which Montgomery county (as at present constituted), and its several towns were brought into existence, we may now appropriately give a general topographical and geographical description.

Montgomery is bounded on the north by Fulton county; east by Schenectady and Saratoga; south by Schenectady, Schoharie and Otsego; and west by Herkimer. It lies on both sides of the Mohawk, centrally distant from Albany about forty miles, and contains 436 square miles. The general range of highlands which forms the connecting link between the northern spurs of the Alleghany mountains on the south, and the Adirondacks on the north, extends through the county in a northeast and southwest direction. The Mohawk cuts through the upland and forms a valley one to two miles in width, and skirted by hills from one hundred to five hundred feet in height. The

valleys of the several tributaries of the Mohawk extend several miles into the highland districts at nearly right angles with the river. The hills bordering upon the latter generally rise in gradual slopes, and from their summits the country spreads out into an undulating upland, with a general inclination toward the river, into which every part of the county is drained. The principal tributaries of the Mohawk are the East Canada, Garoga, Cayadutta Chuctenunda creeks, and Eva's Kill, on the north, and Cowilliga, Schoharie, Auries, Flat, Canajoharie and Otsquaga creeks on the south. The highest point of land in the county is said to be Bean Hill, in Florida, and is estimated at 700 feet above tide. The lowest point is the bed of the Mohawk, on the east line of the county about 260 feet above tide.

Gneiss, the only primary rock in the county, is found in patches, its principal locality being near the Nose, on the river. Resting directly upon this are heavy masses of calciferous sandstone, appearing most frequently on the north side of the Mohawk and trending northward into Fulton county. This rock is occasionally found to contain in its cavities quartz and nodules of anthracite coal, which has led to vain expenditures in mining for coal. Near Spraker's Basin traces of lead have been found. Above the sandstone and next to it are the Black River and Trenton limestone, not important as surface rocks, but furnishing valuable quarries of building stone. The slates and shales of the Hudson river group extend along the south border of the county, and are found in a few places north of the river. Drift and boulders abound in various places. The soil along the river consists of alluvial deposits of deep, rich, vegetable mould, and upon the uplands it is mostly a highly productive, sandy and gravelly loam. The lands of the county generally are well adapted to agricultural pursuits; while dairying and the raising of spring grains and broom corn have been especially remunerative.

CHAPTER II.

European Discoveries and Explorations — The French in Canada — The Puritans in New England — The Dutch in New York — Advance in Civilization toward the Central Mohawk Valley — Champlain Invades the Territory of the Mohawks — The First Battle — Dutch Troubles with Indians — Grant of the Province of New York — Conquest and Overthrow of the Dutch in the New Netherlands.

JUST four hundred years ago the first Spanish adventurers landed on the shores of the American continent. Sailing under the patronage of Spain, Christopher Columbus, the daring Genoese, in 1492, made his wonderful discoveries. This event has generally been designated as the discovery of America, but it is evident that the first Europeans to visit the western hemisphere were Scandinavians, who colonized Iceland in A. D. 875, Greenland in 983, and about the year 1000 had cruised southward as far as the Massachusetts coast.

During the ages that preceded these events, no grander country in every point of view ever awaited the approach of civilization. With climate and soil diversified between the most remote extremes; with thousands of miles of ocean shore, indented by magnificent harbors to welcome the world's commerce; with many of the largest rivers of the globe draining its territory and forming natural highways for commerce; with a system of lakes so immense in area as to entitle them to the name of inland seas; with mountains, hills and valleys laden with the richest minerals and almost exhaustless fuel; and with scenery unsurpassed for grandeur, it needed only the Caucasian to transform a wilderness inhabited by savages into the free, enlightened republic, which is to-day the wonder and glory of the civilized world.

Following close upon the discoveries of Columbus and other earlier explorers, various foreign powers fitted out fleets and commissioned navigators to establish colonies in the vast but unknown continent. It is not within the scope of the present work to detail the results accomplished by those bold navigators, and yet they naturally led to others of greater importance, eventually rendering the great Mohawk valley the

battlefield of various contending powers, each striving for supremacy and dominion over a territory of which Montgomery county is an important integral part. These events, however, will be but briefly mentioned, and only those will be detailed which had a direct bearing upon our subject.

In 1508, Aubert discovered the St. Lawrence river; and in 1524, Francis I, King of France, sent Jean Verrazzani on a voyage of exploration to the new world. He entered a harbor, supposed to have been that of New York, where he remained fifteen days; and it is believed that his crew were the first Europeans to land on the soil of what is now the state of New York. The Gallic explorer cruised along the coast in his frail vessels to the extent of about 2,100 miles, sailing as far north as Labrador, and giving to the whole region the name of "New France"—a name by which the French possessions in America were ever known during the dominion of that power. In 1534 the same king sent Jacques Cartier to the new country. He made two voyages and ascended the St. Lawrence as far as Montreal. The next year he again visited the same region with a fleet which brought a number of French nobility, all of whom were filled with high hopes, and bearing the blessings of the church. This party was determined upon the colonization of the country, but, after passing a winter at the Isle of Orleans and suffering much from the rigors of the climate, they abandoned their scheme and returned to France. As a beginning of the long list of needless and shameful betrayals, treacheries and other abuses to which the two confiding natives were subjected, Cartier inveigled into his vessel the Indian chief Donnegana, who had been his generous host, and bore him with several others into hopeless captivity and final death.

The failure of this scheme delayed for several years further action in the same direction, but in 1540 Cartier again visited the scene of his explorations, accompanied by Jean Francis de Roberval, the latter holding a king's commission as lieutenant-general over the "new countries of Canda, Hochelaga and Saguenay." This commission, according to Watson, conferred authority over a vast territory with the plenary powers of vice-royalty. The results of this voyage, however, were no more profitable than its predecessor, and the effect was to discourage further attempts in the same direction until about 1598, when New

France, particularly its Canadian portion, was made a place of banishment for French convicts; but even this plan failed, and it remained for private enterprise, stimulated by the hope of gain, to make the first successful effort toward the permanent occupation of the country.

The real discoverer and founder of a permanent colony in New France was Samuel de Champlain, a man born with that uncontrollable instinct of investigation and desire for knowledge of distant regions which has always so strongly characterized all great explorers. His earlier adventures in this country have no connection with this work, and it is therefore sufficient to merely mention that in 1608, having counseled his patrons that the banks of the St. Lawrence was the most favorable site for a new empire, he was sent to the country and founded Quebec. To satisfy his love for exploration, Champlain united with the Canadian Indians and marched into the unknown country which the latter had described to him. The result was the discovery of the lake that bears his name; the invasion of the lands of the Mohawks in the country of the Iroquois; a conflict between the Algonquins (aided by Champlain) and a portion of the Iroquois confederacy, in which the latter were defeated with the loss of two of their chiefs, who fell by the hands of Champlain himself.

Thus was signalized the first hostile meeting between the white man and the Indian. Low as the latter was found in the scale of intelligence and humanity, and terrible as were many of the subsequent deeds of the Iroquois, it cannot be denied that their early treatment could foster in the savage breast no other feeling than that of bitterest hostility. It seems like a pathetic page of romance to read Champlain's statement that "The Iroquois are greatly astonished, seeing two men killed so instantaneously," one of whom was their chief; while the ingenuous acknowledgment of the Frenchman, "I had put four balls into my arquebus," is a vivid testimony of how little mercy the Iroquois nations were thenceforth to expect from their northern enemies and the pale-faced race which was eventually to drive them from their domain. It was an age, however, in which might was appealed to as right more frequently than in later years, and the planting of the lowly banner of the Cross was frequently preceded by bloody conquests. It is in the light of the prevailing custom in the old world in Champlain's time that we must view his ready hostility to the Indian.

Now let us turn briefly to other events which have had an important bearing on the settlement of this part of the country. A few weeks after the battle between Champlain and the Indians, Henry Hudson, a navigator in the service of the Dutch East India Company, anchored his ship (*The Halfmoon*) at the mouth of the river which now bears his name. This took place September 5, 1609. He met the savages and was hospitably received by them; but before his departure he subjected them to an experimental knowledge of the effects of intoxicating liquor—an experience perhaps more baneful in its results than that inflicted by Champlain with his new and murderous weapon.

Hudson ascended the river to a point within less than a hundred miles of that reached by Champlain, then returned to Europe, and, through information he had gained, he soon after established a Dutch colony, for which a charter was granted in 1614, naming the region "New Netherlands." The same year they built a fort on Manhattan Island, and the next year another, called Fort Orange, on the site of Albany. In 1621 the Dutch West India Company was formed and took possession of "New Amsterdam" and the New Netherlands; and in 1626 the territory was made a province or county of Holland. For fifteen years the Dutch settlers remained at peace with the Indians, but the harsh and unwise administration of the provisional governor, William Kieft, provoked the latter to hostilities, which continued with but little interruption during the remainder of the Dutch dominion.

Meanwhile, in 1607, the English had made their first permanent settlement at Jamestown, Va., and in 1620 planted their historic colony at Plymouth Rock. These two colonies became the successful rivals of all others, in that strife which finally left them masters of the country.

On the discoveries and colonizations thus briefly noted, three great European powers based claims to a part of the territory embraced in the state of New York; first, England, by reason of the discovery of John Cabot, who sailed under commission from Henry VII, and on the 24th of June, 1497, reached the sterile coast of Labrador, also that made in the following year by his son, Sebastian, who explored the same coast from New Foundland to Florida, claiming a territory eleven degrees in width and indefinitely extending westward; second, France, which, from the discoveries of Verrazzani, claimed a portion of the At-

lantic coast, and also (under the title of New France), an almost boundless region westward ; third, Holland, which based on Hudson's discoveries a claim to the entire country from Cape Cod to the southern shore of Delaware Bay.

The Dutch, however, became the temporary occupants of the region under consideration ; but their domination was of brief duration. Indian hostilities were provoked through the ill-considered action of Governor Kieft, whose official career continued for about ten years, being superseded by Peter Stuyvesant in May, 1647. Stuyvesant was the last of the Dutch governors, and his firm and equitable policy had the effect of harmonizing the discontent existing among the Indians. On the 12th of March, 1664, however, Charles II, of England, granted by letters patent to his brother, James, the Duke of York, all the country from the river St. Croix to the Kennebec in Maine, together with all the land from the west bank of the Connecticut river to the east side of Delaware Bay. The duke sent an English squadron to secure the gift, and on the 8th of September following, Governor Stuyvesant capitulated, being constrained to that course by the Dutch colonists, who preferred peace with the same privileges and liberties accorded to the English colonists, to a prolonged and perhaps fruitless contest. The English changed the name of New Amsterdam to New York, and thus ended the Dutch dominion in America.

The Dutch, during their period of peace with the Iroquois, had become thrifty and prosperous by trading guns and rum to the Indians for furs, thus supplying them with doubly destructive weapons. The peaceful relations existing between the Dutch and the Indians at the time of the English accession were maintained by the latter, but the strife and jealousy between the English and the French continued, the former steadily gaining ground both through their success in forming and maintaining an alliance with the Iroquois and also through the more permanent character of their settlements. It may be added that the final surrender of the Dutch to the English power did not lead to a withdrawal of the former from the territory. It made no great difference to the settlers from Holland whether they were under their own or English jurisdiction, but had their preferences been consulted they would of course have preferred their mother country. Their settle-

ments extended from New Amsterdam (New York) on the south, to Albany on the north, mainly along the Hudson river, but there are well defined evidences of their early occupation of what is now western Vermont, and also part of Massachusetts; and at the same time they also advanced their outposts along the Mohawk valley toward the region of old Tryon county.

CHAPTER III.

The Indian Occupation — The Iroquois Confederacy — The Five and Six Nations of Indians — Location and Names — Character and Power of the League — Social and Domestic Habits — The Mohawks — Treatment of the Jesuit Missionaries — Discouraging Efforts at Civilization — Names of Missionaries — Alliance with the English — Downfall of the Confederacy.

AFTER the establishment of the Dutch in the New Netherlands the region now embraced within the state of New York was held by three powers — one native and two foreign. The main colonies of the French (one of the powers referred to) were in the Canadas, but through the zeal of the Jesuit missionaries their line of possessions had been extended south and west of the St. Lawrence river, and some attempts at colonization had been made, but as yet with only partial success. In the southern and eastern portion of the province granted to the Duke of York were the English, who with steady yet sure advances were pressing settlement and civilization westward and gradually nearing the French possessions. The French and English were at this time, and also for many years afterwards, conflicting powers, each studying for the mastery on both sides of the Atlantic; and with each succeeding outbreak of war in the mother countries, so there were renewed hostilities between their American colonies. Directly between the possessions of the French and the territory of the English lay the lands of the famous Iroquois confederacy, then more commonly known as the Five Nations. By the French they were called the "Iroquois," but by the Dutch they were known as the "Maquas," while the English called them "Mingoes;" but however variously they may have been desig-

nated, they were a race of savages whose peculiar organization, prowess on the field of battle, loyalty to friends, as well as barbarous revenge upon enemies, together with eloquent speech and stoical endurance of torture, have surprised all who are conversant with their history.

When, during the latter part of the fifteenth and the early part of the sixteenth century, the foreign navigators visited the American continent, they found it in the possession of two formidable races of savages, between whom there was no unity; and yet while open hostility was suppressed, they were nevertheless in a constant state of disquiet, each being jealous of the other and at the same time doubtful of its own strength and fearful of the results of a general war. One of the nations occupied the region of the larger rivers of Pennsylvania, and also that on the south and west. They were known as the Delawares to the Europeans, but styled themselves "Lenni Lenapes," meaning "Original People." The other nation occupied, principally, the territory which afterwards formed the state of New York, and is known in history as the "Iroquois Confederacy," or the Five (and subsequently) the Six Nations.

Their confederacy originally comprised five nations which were located from east to west across the territory which now forms our state, beginning with the Mohawks on the extreme east, the Oneidas next, and the Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas following in the above named order. Each of these nations was divided into five tribes, and all were united in common league. Parkman says: "Both reason and tradition point to the conclusion that the Iroquois originally formed one individual people. Sundered, like countless other tribes, by dissensions, caprice, or the necessities of a hunter's life, they separated into five distinct nations." The central council fire of the confederacy was with the Onondagas, while to the Mohawks, according to Clark, was always accorded "the high consideration of furnishing the war captain (Chief Tckarahogea), which distinguishing title was retained so late as 1814."

The government of this remarkable confederacy was exercised through councils, in which each nation was represented by deputies or sachems. In their peculiar blending of the individual, the tribal and the national interests lay the secret of the immense power which for more than a century resisted the hostile efforts of the French, which

caused them for nearly a century to be alike courted and feared by the contending French and English colonies, and which enabled them to subdue the neighboring Indian tribes, until they became really the dictators of the continent, gaining indeed the title of "The Romans of the New World." Dewitt Clinton speaking on this subject said, "They reduced war to a science, and their movements were directed by system and policy. They never attacked a hostile country till they had sent out spies to explore and designate its vulnerable points, and when they encamped they observed the greatest circumspection to guard against surprise. Whatever superiority of force they might have, they never neglected the use of stratagem, employing all the crafty wiles of the Carthaginians." There is, however, a difference in the opinions of authors as to the true military status of the Iroquois. In the forest they were a terrible foe, while in an open country they could not successfully contend with disciplined soldiery; but they made up for this deficiency, to a large degree, by their self-confidence, vindictiveness and insatiable desire for ascendancy and triumph.

While the Iroquois were undoubtedly superior in mental capacity and more provident than their Canadian enemies, and other tribes, there is little indication that they were ever inclined to improve the condition in which they were found by the Europeans. They were closely attached to their warrior and hunter life, and devoted their energies to the lower, if not the lowest forms of enjoyment and gratification. Their dwellings, even among the more stationary tribes, were rude, their food coarse and poor, and their domestic habits and surroundings unclean and barbarous. Their dress was ordinarily the skins of animals until the advent of the whites, and was primitive in character. Their women were degraded into mere beasts of burden, and while they believed in a Supreme Being, they were powerfully swayed by superstition, by incantations, by "medicine men," dreams and visions, and their feasts were exhibitions of debauchery and gluttony.

Such, according to our sincere belief, are some of the more prominent characteristics of the race encountered by Champlain when he came into the Iroquois country near three centuries ago, and welcomed them with the first volley of bullets, a policy that was pursued by all his civilized successors. It is not denied that the Indians possessed a

few redeeming characteristics, but they were so strongly dominated by their barbarous manner of life and their savage traits, that years of faithful missionary labor by the Jesuits and others were productive of but little real benefit. It may be added that whatever is true of any of the Five Nations, or (as they became in 1712) the Six Nations, is equally true of all others. The Mohawks occupied the region of eastern and northern New York, and it is with them that we have particularly to deal in this narrative. They were, perhaps, as peaceful and domestic as any of the confederacy, yet all the early efforts for their civilization and conversion to Christianity were uncertain and discouraging. No strong, controlling influence for good was ever obtained among them prior to the time of Sir William Johnson, and even then it is doubtful whether they were not moved more by the power of purchase than by love of rectitude.

When Champlain opened the way for French dominion in America the task of planting Christianity among the Indians was assigned to the Jesuits, a name derived from the Society of Jesus founded by Ignatius Loyola in 1539; but while their primary object was to spread the gospel, their secondary and scarcely less important purpose was to extend the French dominion. In 1736 Canada was restored to France, and within three years from that date there were fifteen Jesuits in the province. They rapidly increased and extended their influence to a large number of the Indian nations in the far west, but more particularly to the Mohawks and the Senecas, whose land lay on the west of the "long house" of the Iroquois. As early as 1654, during a temporary peace between the French and the Five Nations, Father Bablon founded a mission and built a chapel in the Mohawk valley, but when war was resumed the Jesuits were forced to flee. Between 1657 and 1769 twenty-four missionaries labored among the Iroquois Indians, but we are directly interested only in those who sought converts among the Mohawks. Isaac Jogues was one of these, whose career in the Indian country forms one of the most thrilling chapters of history. He was held by the Mohawks as a prisoner from August, 1642, to the same month of the next year, and labored as a missionary with the same nation in 1646, in October of which year he was killed. Simon Le Moyne labored with the Mohawks about two months in 1655, and again in 1656, and

also the third time from August, 1657, to May, 1658. Frances Joseph Bressani was imprisoned by the Mohawks about six months in 1644.

Julien Garnier was sent to them in May, 1668, and passed on to the Onondagas and Senecas. Jacques Bruyas came from the Onondagas to the Mohawks in July, 1667. He left for the Oneidas in September and returned in 1672, continuing in service several years. Jacques Fremin came in July, 1667, and remained about a year. Jean Perron was sent in the same year, and he also remained about a year. Francis Boniface labored with the Mohawks from 1668 to 1673, when he was succeeded by Francis Vaillant De Gueslis. These faithful missionaries were followed in later years by such noble workers as Talbot, Henry Barclay, John Ogilvie, ——— Spencer, Timothy Woodbridge, Gideon Hawley, Eleazer Wheelock, Samuel Kirkland, Bishop Hobart, Eleazer Williams, Dan. Barnes (Methodist), and others of less distinction, all of whom labored faithfully, but with varied perseverance for the conversion of the Iroquois. All, however, were forced to admit that their efforts as a whole were unsatisfactory and discouraging. Even subsequent efforts to establish education and Christianity among the Indians, while yielding perhaps sufficient results to justify their prosecution, have constantly met with discouraging obstacles.

The advent of the European nations was the forerunner of the downfall of the Iroquois confederacy, and doubtless will lead to the ultimate extinction of the race. The French invasion of 1693, together with that of three years later, cost the confederacy half its warriors. Their allegiance to the British (with the exception of the Oneidas), in the revolutionary war proved to be a dependence on a falling power; and this in connection with the relentless vengeance of the American colonists broke up the once powerful league, and either scattered its members to a large extent upon the friendly soil of Canada, or left them at the mercy of the state and general government, which consigned them to reservations with very imperfect provisions for their amelioration.

CHAPTER IV.

The French and Indian Wars — Causes Leading to Them — English and French Jealousies — Failure of Lord de Courcelles Expedition against the Mohawks — Corlear Saves the French from Destruction — Iroquois Seek a Peace — French Treachery — The Peace of Breda — War Renewed — Iroquois ask English Protection — Invasion of Canada — Schenectady Destroyed — The Mohawks show Friendship — English Colonies Aroused to Action — Services of John and Peter Schuyler — Frontenac Invades the Mohawk Country — The Castles Captured — Treaty of Ryswick — Peace Again Restored.

FROM the death of Champlain until the end of the French dominion in America, the friendship established by that great explorer between his own people and the northern Indians was unbroken, while at the same time it led to the unyielding hostility of the Iroquois, and especially of the Mohawks, for the latter were the first to suffer a fearful experience of the destructive power of European firearms. If truces and formal treaties were made between these antagonistic elements, they were brief in duration and of little general effect. The Jesuit fathers labored zealously, but they made no permanent progress in winning the affections of any of the Five Nations. Accepting the English view of their influence, they unsettled the savage mind and led to such complications as to require from the provincial authorities of New York, in 1700, an unjustifiable law inflicting the death penalty on every Romish priest that should come voluntarily into the province; but even this severe measure did not entirely terminate their work. After the accession of the English, the peaceful relations held with the Iroquois by the Dutch were continued, but strife and jealousy incessantly embroiled the English and ultimately led to a terrible war, which lasted until 1763 (with brief intervals of peace), and delayed for many years the settlement of the Mohawk valley.

The causes which led to the protracted contentions between the French and the Iroquois Indians are clear and distinct. They began with the unwarranted invasion of Champlain and his allied savages of the Mohawk region, which engendered an hostility that eventually cost

hundreds of lives in battle, together with the ruthless slaughter of an equal or greater number who were innocent of warlike intent. The real struggle of the period, known as the French and Indian war, began soon after the conquest of the New Netherlands by the English, and ended only with the extinction of the French power in Canada, but it is only of the series of the conflicts called in history by that title that the present chapter is designed to treat.

In the hope of avenging past injuries and to put an end to future invasions, the people of New France resolved, in 1665, to send against the Mohawks a force that should not return until their enemies should be swept from the face of the earth, but it was not until the month of January, 1666, that Lord de Courcelles, with a force of less than six hundred men, started on this expedition. It was his purpose to destroy the Mohawk nation, and therefore the route of travel was through the valley of Lake Champlain, but the severity of the winter was so great that the invading force, being reduced to distress, was obliged to abandon the enterprise. The Mohawks and Oneidas, becoming aware of the projected invasion and of the straits in which the invaders were placed, determined upon vengeance, and were only restrained through the potent influence of Arent Van Corlear, one of the settlers at Schenectady, whose urgent intercessions turned the avengers from their purpose and saved the defenceless Frenchmen from destruction.

The magnitude of De Courcelles's expedition, although it resulted in no disaster to the Mohawks, prompted the Iroquois to sue for peace, and a treaty with the French power was concluded in May, June and July, 1666, by the Mohawks, Oneidas and Senecas. During the treaty negotiations, however, the Mohawks committed an outrage on the Fort St. Anne garrison, and this led the governor of Canada (M. de Tracy), to chastise the offending tribe. In the following September he invaded the Mohawk country; the villages and crops were destroyed, and the natives only found refuge in flight. In July, 1667, however, the peace of Breda, between Holland, England and France, was signed, and this defined the boundaries of possessions of each power in America, and for a time maintained a peace with the Iroquois, but it was of short duration, for in 1669 we find the French and Iroquois again at war. In April, 1672, a change in the administration in Canada was made, fol-

lowed by another peace, concluded in 1673, which was maintained for about eleven years, but in 1684 another rupture took place.

At this time M. de la Barre was governor of Canada and New France and Colonel Dongan governor of New York. The former led an ineffectual expedition against the Senecas, but was soon superseded by Marquis de Nonville, the latter bearing special instructions from his sovereign to preserve peace with the Indians. This he found impossible, and he therefore planned a powerful expedition into the Iroquois country in 1687, destroying numerous villages and all the growing crops, while the Indians fled before the approaching enemy and sought protection of the governor of New York. This was promised, with advice that no peace be again concluded with the French. De Nonville, however, called a council of the Iroquois chiefs and sachems with the view of piece, but treachery on the part of the French commander so enraged the whole confederacy that in July, 1689, they made a descent upon Montreal, burned and destroyed property, massacred men, women and children, and returned with twenty-six prisoners, most of whom were burned at the stake.

The French colony was now in a pitiable condition, but an unexpected and welcome change was at hand. The divided counsels of the English colonists, growing out of the revolution in the mother country, by which William, Prince of Orange, was placed on the throne, gave a new aspect to affairs. The Count de Frontenac was again appointed governor of New France (May 21, 1689), and arrived in October. He made an earnest effort to negotiate a peace with the Iroquois, but failing, determined to terrify them into neutrality. For this purpose he fitted out three expeditions, one against New York, one against Connecticut, and the third against other parts of New England.

The first and principal expedition was directed against Schenectady, which was sacked and burned on the night of February 8 and 9, 1690. A band of French and Indians, after a tedious march along the course of West Canada creek and Mohawk, fell upon the doomed and unprotected village. But two houses were spared, also fifty or sixty old men, women and children, and about twenty Mohawks. This was done as it is said, "in order to show them" (the Mohawks) "that it was the English and not they against whom the grudge was entertained." The

French made a rapid but disastrous retreat, suffering from the winter's severity and also from the harassing pursuit of their maddened enemies. This and other assaults at exposed points so disheartened the people at Albany that they resolved to retire to New York; and their course was altered only by a delegation of the Mohawks¹ which reproached them for their torpidity, urging them to a courageous defence of their homes. This heroic conduct of the Mohawks awakens admiration. Notwithstanding French intrigues and Jesuitical influence, combined with the exasperating apathy of the English, who appeared willing to sacrifice their savage, yet in this instance noble allies, they adhered to their early allegiance.

Repeated invasions by the French and Indians at last awakened the English colonists to the conviction that they must more thoroughly unite in their efforts against the enemies. A convention was accordingly held in New York in 1690, constituted of delegates from Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York, at which it was resolved to combine their strength for the subjugation of Canada. The first named province engaged to equip a fleet and attack the French possessions by water, while the other two should combine their forces and assault Montreal and the forts upon the Sorel river. Through lack of efficient organization, and the failure of expected supplies, the expedition was abandoned. During the same year, however, John Schuyler, grandfather of Philip Schuyler of Revolutionary fame, having organized a band of about one hundred and twenty "Christians and Indians," made an incursion into the French possessions and destroyed much property, as well as routing and killing the inhabitants of the villages; and in the summer of 1691, Major Peter Schuyler led an expedition into the same region, among his forces being eighty Mohawk warriors.

The Iroquois continued their incursions against the French and were, perhaps, more dreaded by the latter than were the English. The people of New France were prevented from properly tilling their lands, and when crops were grown they were frequently destroyed by the invaders. The fur trade,² in which the French were actively engaged, was also nearly

¹ Annals of Tryon County, appendix, Note A.

² It is interesting in this connection to note the prices which ruled in the Indian trade at Fort Orange (Albany) and Montreal in 1689:

DECLARATION OF PEACE.

35

ruined by the Iroquois, who took possession of the passes between them and their western allies, and cut off the traders.

These forays exasperated Count de Frontenac to such a degree that he determined, if possible, to bring them to a final close. He therefore planned an expedition against the Mohawks to be executed in the mid-winter of 1693, and he made his preparations with the greatest secrecy. Having collected a force of nearly seven hundred French and Indians, he cautiously though rapidly passed Lake Champlain on the ice, descended into the Mohawk country, and surprised and captured three of their castles,¹ meeting with resistance only at the last, and retreated with about three hundred prisoners.

Major Peter Schuyler, ever the firm friend of the Mohawks, hastily gathered a party of Albany militia and Indians, five hundred in number, and started in pursuit with such activity that the fugitives in their haste suffered greatly for food, being compelled, as it is said, "to eat the leather of their shoes." They escaped, however, with a loss of eighty killed and thirty-three wounded. In 1695 another strong force of French and Indians invaded the Onondaga territory, and although by far the most formidable invasion the Iroquois had thus far suffered, it was almost fruitless in other results than the destruction of villages and crops.

The treaty of Ryswick was concluded in September, 1697, but while it established peace between the French and English, it practically left unsettled the status of the Iroquois. The French insisted on the protection of their own Indian allies, but were unwilling to include the Iro-

The Indian pays for	at Fort Orange,	at Montreal.
Eight pounds of powder.....	One Beaver	Four Beavers.
A Gun.....	Two "	Three, "
40 pounds of lead.....	One "	Four "
Blanket of red cloth.....	One "	Two "
Four shirts.....	One "	Two "
Six pairs of stockings.....	One "	Two "
Six quarts of Rum.....	One "	Six "

It is a rather amusing indication of the prevalent mode of dealing with the foolish natives, that while a gun could be purchased for three beavers, it required six to buy a gallon and a half of rum

¹ The three Mohawk castles, so called, captured by the French, were situated on the south side of the Mohawk river; the lower or eastern being at Icanderago, afterwards called Fort Hunter, near the junction of the Mohawk and Schoharie rivers, while the central or Canajoharie castle (as then called) stood on the hill at the east end of Fort Plain (called by the Indians Ta-ragh-jo-roes, signifying hill of health), and the third or western castle was in what is now the town of Danube. —Schoharie County History, page 26.

quois, and even made preparations to attack them with their whole force. The English, on the other hand, as strenuously claimed the same terms for their allies, and Earl Bellomont informed Count de Frontenac that he would resist any attack on the Iroquois with the entire force of his government. This terminated the threats of the enemy.

Peace being thus established (although the old rivalries continued to smoulder) the English left nothing undone to strengthen and render enduring the friendship between themselves and the Iroquois. Liberal presents were distributed among the chiefs, and five of them were taken by Peter Schuyler to London, that they might become impressed with the greatness and strength of the government to which they were allied. All this, however, did not prevent the Iroquois from making peace with the French in September, 1700, and notwithstanding the additional fact that they had, less than a month previously, ceded to Great Britain their hunting grounds in which they had (to quote the conveyance) "subdued the old inhabitants, a thousand miles west of the Niagara, all around the lakes."

On the accession of Anne to the British throne as successor to King William, in March, 1702, what has been known as Queen Anne's war was soon begun, in which Marlboro won great fame. It continued until the treaty of Utrecht,¹ April 11, 1713, but though felt in the colonies, New York fortunately escaped its bloody consequences.

¹ This treaty "secured the Protestant succession to the British throne; also the separation of the French and Spanish crowns, the destruction of Dunkirk, the enlargement of British colonies in America, and a full satisfaction from France of the claims of the allied kingdoms, Britain, Holland and Germany"

Fortunately the Five Nations had made a treaty of neutrality (Aug. 4, 1701) with the French in Canada, and thus became an impassable barrier against the savages from the St. Lawrence.
—Lossing.

CHAPTER V.

Rivalry between the French and English--Relative Justice of their Claims--How defined by Sir William Johnson--Both Nations make treaties with the Iroquois--Provisions of the treaty of Ryswick--French Encroachments beyond the Treaty line--War Declared in 1774--French Outrages in the Mohawk Country--Treaty of peace at Aix-la-Chapelle--The Situation--The Albany Convention--King Hendrick's Speech--Preparation for War--Expeditions of 1755--Services of General Johnson--Shirley's Conduct--Battle at Lake George--Death of Hendrick--Distinction of Sir William Johnson.

IT was during the peace that followed the treaty of Utrecht, that what may be termed the permanent occupation of the upper Mohawk valley was begun by a number of Palatinates, who, in 1711, dissatisfied with their condition on the Hudson, made their way to the Schoharie to occupy lands promised by Queen Anne. To be strictly accurate, however, it should be stated that the Mohawk valley in the neighborhood of Schenectady at least, was settled as early as 1661, under the direction and patronage of Arent Van Corlear, who acquired title from the Mohawks, and whose purchase was confirmed, in 1684, by Governor Dongan. The destruction of this settlement by the French and Canadian Indians on the night of the 8th and 9th of February, 1690, has been described in the preceding chapter, and hence we only make a brief and passing reference while speaking of the rival claims of the English and French to the Mohawk territory. It is evident that the claims of the English were based upon a much broader foundation of justice than those of France, and both should have been, in some degree, subject to the right of the Iroquois as the "original proprietors." These rights were subsequently defined by Sir William Johnson in the following language: "The hereditary domains of the Mohawks extend from near Albany to the Little Falls (Oneida boundary) and all the country from thence eastward, etc., to Rejiohne on Lake Champlain."

While the French were in possession of New France their influence over all the Indians within its limits was paramount, and they even disputed with the English the alliance of the latter with the Iroquois,

but whatever may have been the foundation of French claims to the territory of Canada, or even to a portion of the present territory of New York, they could hardly be recognized as holding any part of the Mohawk region. Even admitting that four of the Iroquois nations, in 1663, concluded a treaty with De Tracy, by which they placed themselves under the protection of the French king, it is evident that the Mohawks were not a party to that treaty, and it is also evident that continued though occasional and always successful hostilities on the part of the French against the Iroquois, followed for years. On the other hand, although England in the cession of New Netherlands, acquired only the territory previously held by the Dutch, yet she secured the firm and lasting allegiance of the Mohawks, a friendship more closely cemented by the influence of Sir William Johnson.

In addition to the foregoing, the original charter of Virginia carried the English possessions to the forty-fifth parallel, and later grants extended her sovereignty to the St. Lawrence river.

The treaty of Ryswick (1697) declared that the belligerents should return to their possessions, as each occupied them at the beginning of the hostilities, and England put forth the unconditional claim that, at the period referred to in the treaty, their Iroquois allies were in the occupation by conquest of Montreal and the shores of the St. Lawrence. The French government at the time seem to have acknowledged that the Iroquois were embraced in the treaty. Thus the two European powers wrangled over the country of the Mohawks, which was but a little time previously the undisputed dominion of the Iroquois. When France disputed the claims of England and appealed to the council at Onondaga, a stern, savage orator exclaimed: "We have ceded our lands to no one; we hold them of heaven alone."¹

Whether so much importance should attach to the treaties in which these untutored savages were pitted against the intelligent Europeans, either French or English, as has often been ascribed to them, is unquestionable; especially when we consider the methods often adopted in later years to induce the Indians to sign away their domain. Be this as it may, it is now generally believed that the intrusion of France upon the possessions of the Mohawks in the valley of Lake Champlain,

¹ Bancroft.

"at the sacrifice of so much blood and treasure, justice and the restraints and faith of the treaties, were subordinate to the lust of power and expediency." ¹

The encroachment by the French upon the territory of the English and their allies (the Iroquois), was one of the chief causes of the French and Indian war. As early as the year 1731, the surveyor-general of the Canadas made a complete survey of the entire Champlain valley, including both the New York and Vermont shores and also Ticonderoga, and not content with this geographical aggression, he extended his work so as to include both sides of the St. Lawrence river nearly to Lake Ontario. The territory thus surveyed was divided into vast tracts, and granted as "seigniories" to various proprietors, either as rewards for service to the French crown, or for other considerations. Acting under the assumed authority of ownership a small number of the grantees attempted to actually occupy their lands, but the Canadian government, observing that war between France and England would soon take place, prepared for such an event by possessing themselves of the strongest points in the Champlain Valley, and erecting suitable fortifications. The acknowledged key to the country was Fort St. Frederick, now Crown Point, which the French occupied in 1731.

Ticonderoga was near and to the southward, and here also a fortress was constructed. In the western part of the province of New York other defences were also established; this being done with the consent of the Senecas, whose confidence the wily Frenchman and their Jesuit associates had fully gained. In the interior of the Mohawk country, however, no preparation for war was made other than accomplished through the influence of Sir William Johnson, whose advent to the Mohawk Valley antedated the beginning of hostilities by only ten years.

In March, 1744, war was declared between Great Britain and France, and the former power at once prosecuted measures for the conquest of the French possessions. The colonies of New York and New England united in an expedition to co-operate with the fleet under Commodore Warren in an attack on the fortress of Louisburg, which capitulated in June, 1745. This was followed by the descent upon Hoosic village whose garrison was forced to surrender, leaving the settlements all the

¹ Watson.

way to Albany open to the enemy. More than twenty other minor expeditions were fitted out by the French from Fort St. Frederick, to fall upon the frontier English settlements and burn, pillage and slaughter. It is little wonder, therefore, that the inhabitants of New York viewed this fortress as a standing and constant menace, and the following statements will give an idea of the character of some of the marauding parties and their bloody success:

"May 24, 1746. A party of eight Abenakis has been fitted out who have been in the direction of Corlear (Schenectady), and have returned with some prisoners and scalps."

"May 28, 1746. A party of Abenakis struck a blow near Albany and Corlear, and returned with some scalps."

"August 10. Chevalier de Repentigny arrived at Quebec and reported that he had made an attack near Corlear and took eleven prisoners and twenty-five scalps."

We forbear further addition to this terrible recital. Who can imagine the horrors of a season filled with such scenes? The colonists seemed almost powerless against the enemy—wily, rapid, blood-thirsty, and with a knowledge of every trail and point of vantage. Colonel Johnson sent out two parties against the French and their allies on the 4th of August, which made an attack on Chambly but after a successful beginning they were drawn into an ambush and most of them killed or captured.

The international contest from 1744 to 1748 had an important object in the possession of the Mississippi valley, which the English claimed as an extension of their coast discoveries and settlements, and the French by the right of occupancy, their forts already extending from Canada to Louisiana, and forming "a bow, of which the English colonies were the string." At the last mentioned date the English colonies contained more than a million inhabitants while the French had only about sixty thousand. The Iroquois would not engage in this strife until 1746, when they were disappointed at its sudden termination, having compromised themselves with their old enemies (the allies of the French), now more numerous and dangerous than formerly. The question of Iroquois supremacy was, therefore, renewed in a more intensified manner.

In April, 1748, was concluded the ineffective, if not actually shameful treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, and while it was a virtual renewal of the treaties of Ryswick and Utrecht, it left unsettled the questions above alluded to, with others of equal importance to the colonies, and the fortresses of Louisburg and Crown Point were returned to the French without a protest.

Opposed and embarrassed by political factions, Governor Clinton resigned his office in October, 1753, and was succeeded by Sir Danvers Osborne. The same distractions, aggravated by the loss of his wife, threw the latter into a state of melancholia which ended in suicide. He was succeeded by Lieutenant-Governor James De Lancey, who, in his message to the Assembly in the spring of 1754, called attention to recent French encroachments, and to a request from Virginia for aid to resist them. The Assembly voted one thousand pounds to bear its share in erecting forts along the frontier. The French, by reason of victories in Pennsylvania in 1754, were left in undisputed possession of the entire region west of the Alleghanies. The necessity for united action by the English colonies was now too apparent to be overlooked; but the old sectional differences tended to prevent harmony in sentiment or action.

The Iroquois were also to some extent becoming alienated from the English, whose apathy and failures they did not relish.

Under the advice of the British ministry a convention of delegates from all the colonial assemblies was held at Albany in June, 1754. The object of this meeting was to secure a continued alliance with the Six Nations. Governor De Lancey presided, and opened the proceedings with a speech to the Indian chiefs and sachems who were present. A treaty was renewed, and the Indians left apparently satisfied.

Colonel, afterward Sir William Johnson was present at this convention and made many valuable suggestions to the delegates.

He had by this time become well acquainted with the Indian character; had ingratiated himself in their affections, not only among the Mohawks, but as well among the Iroquois. He was made by the former one of their sachems, having authority in their councils and likewise he was created war-chief, and as such frequently assumed the costume and habits of the Indians.

After the Albany convention had been concluded, but before the treaty was finally settled, King Hendrick,¹ then highest in authority among the Mohawks, addressed the delegates and Indians upon the subject of the meeting. His final speech closed as follows:

"Brethren, we put you in mind, from our former speech, of the defenceless state of your frontiers, particularly of this city and Schenectady, and of the country of the Five Nations. You told us yesterday that you were consulting about securing both. We beg that you will resolve upon something speedily. You are not safe from danger one day. The French have their hatchets in their hands both at Ohio and at two places in New England. We don't know but this very night they may attack us. Since Colonel Johnson has been in this city there has been a French Indian at his house (Fort Johnson), who took measure of the wall around it, and made very narrow observations on everything thereabouts. We think Colonel Johnson in very great danger, because the French will take more than ordinary pains to kill him or take him prisoner, both on account of his great interest among us and because he is one of our sachems. Brethren, there is an affair about which our hearts tremble and our minds are deeply concerned. We refer to the selling of rum in our castles. It destroys many, both of our old and young people. We are in great fear about this rum. It may cause murder on both sides. We, the Mohawks of both castles, request that the people who are settled around about us may not be suffered to sell our people rum. It destroys virtue and the progress of religion among us."²

"It was on this occasion," also remarks a contemporary writer of the period, "that the venerable Hendrick, the great Mohawk chieftain, pronounced one of those thrilling and eloquent speeches that marked the nobler times of the Iroquois. It excited the wonder and admiration of

¹ King Hendrick was born about the year 1680 and generally dwelt at the upper castle of the Mohawk nation, although he resided for a time near the present (1845) residence of Nicholas Yost on the north side of the Mohawk, near the Nose. He stood high in the confidence of Sir William Johnson, with whom he was engaged in many perilous enterprises against the Canadian French; and under whose command he fell in the battle of Lake George, September 8, 1755, covered with glory. He was one of the most active and sagacious sachems of his time.—Schoharie County and Border Wars.

² The governor promised satisfaction to this pathetic appeal, of course; gave the Indians thirty wagon-loads of presents, and the civilized inhabitants went on selling their gallons of rum for beaver skins. And the Indians have often been cursed for their intemperance.

those who listened, and commanded the highest encomiums wherever it was read. In burning words he contrasted the supineness and imbecility of the English with the energies of the French policy. His hoary head and majestic bearing attached dignity and force to his utterances. 'We,' he exclaimed, 'would have gone and taken Crown Point, but you hindered us.' He closed his philippic with this overwhelming rebuke: 'Look at the French, they are men. They are fortifying everywhere. But you, and we are ashamed to say it, you are like women—bare and open without any fortifications.'

Meanwhile, at the suggestion of the Massachusetts delegates to the convention, a plan for the union of the colonies was taken into consideration. The suggestion was favorably received and a committee of one from each colony was appointed to draw plans for the purpose, the fertile mind of Benjamin Franklin having already suggested a plan which was adopted.

It was the forerunner of our federal constitution; but the colonial assemblies rejected it, deeming that it encroached on their liberties, while the home government rejected it, claiming that it granted too much power to the people.

Though England and France were nominally at peace, the frontier was still distressingly harassed by hordes of Indians let loose by the French, and the colonists continued their appeal to the ministry.

While the latter were hesitating, the Duke of Cumberland, then captain-general of the British armies, sent over early in 1755 General Edward Braddock, with a detachment from the army in Ireland.

He soon afterward met the colonial governors at Alexandria and measures were devised for the protection of the colonies.¹

For this purpose four expeditions were planned by General Braddock (1775), the first to effect the reduction of Nova Scotia; the second to recover the Ohio valley; the third to expel the French from Fort Niagara and then form a junction with the Ohio expedition, and the fourth to capture Crown Point. The first of these expeditions was entirely successful; the second, under command of Braddock himself, was

¹ By special request of Braddock, Colonel William Johnson was present at this meeting. He was then appointed superintendant of Indian affairs, "with full power to treat with the confederate nations, and secure them and their allies to the British interest." Braddock also advanced two thousand pounds for the furtherance of the latter object.—Stone's Life of Sir William Johnson.

(chiefly through his folly) disastrous in the extreme. He neglected to send out scouts, as repeatedly counselled by Washington, and when within a few miles of Fort Du Quesne, the army was surprised by the concealed enemy and only saved from destruction by Washington, who, upon the fall of Braddock, assumed command and conducted the retreat. The expedition against Fort Niagara commanded by General Shirley, governor of Massachusetts, was also unsuccessful, and many of his force left him, after hearing of Braddock's defeat.

The army gathered for the capture of Crown Point was assembled at Albany, and its command entrusted to Colonel William Johnson, who, for the purpose of the expedition, had been elevated to the rank of major-general. His force comprised the militia and volunteers from New York and the New England provinces, added to which was a strong body of his faithful Mohawk warriors, headed by their famous chief, King Hendrick. Johnson proceeded northward and occupied positions at Fort Edward and Lake George,¹ expecting reinforcements from the western nations of the Iroquois; but in this he was disappointed. General Shirley,² in marching against Fort Niagara, had spread dissensions among the confederates, telling them that Johnson was his subordinate and subject to his orders; that his office of superintendent of Indian affairs was but nominal, and that the warriors would best serve their own interests by joining his army. These things were related to Johnson by chief Hendrick in explanation of the absence of the promised aid of the western Indians. Their assistance had been assured at a council of the chiefs and sachems held with the Onondagas prior to the organization

¹ The former name of this lake, applied by Champlain, was "Lac St. Sacrament," in honor of the day of his first visit to its shores. General Johnson, on the occasion of camping at the lake with his troops, changed the name to "Lake George," in honor of George III, then the British sovereign.

² The peculiar action of Gov. Shirley on this occasion is best explained by General Johnson in the report sent by him to the Board of Trade, and written from the camp at Lake George. The report is as follows: "Governor Shirley, soon after his arrival at Albany, on his way to Oswego, grew dissatisfied with my proceedings and employed one Lydius, of that place—a man whom he knew, and whom I told him, was extremely obnoxious to me, and the very man whom the Indians had in their public meetings so warmly complained of, to oppose my interest and management with them. Under this man, several others were employed. These persons went to the Indian castles, and by bribes, keeping them constantly feasting and drunk; calumniating my character; depreciating my commission, authority and management: in short, by the most licentious and abandoned proceedings, raised such confusion among the Indians, particularly the two Mohawk castles, that their sachems were under the utmost consternation, etc."



Edward W. Weymouth

of the expedition. The total Indian force which accompanied this expedition amounted to two hundred and fifty men, all of whom were under the special charge of General Johnson, who was known among them as "Warraghiyaghey." The militia and volunteers were under command of General Lyman, and amounted, when all assembled in the field, to about 4,000 men.

A detail of the events of the battle that followed cannot be considered an essential part of this narrative, although it took place within the Mohawk country. At the beginning of the conflict King Hendrick was slain, and Johnson severely wounded. He retired from the field after having turned the command over to General Lyman. As a matter of fact it should be stated that General Johnson held supreme command during this expedition, while General Lyman was his faithful aid; but the Indians of the army required careful and discreet attention to make their services available, and as Johnson was their friend, he gave them his special attention throughout the engagement, while the immediate command of the troops devolved upon General Lyman and the other officers of rank.

General Johnson, however, directed the various maneuvers through which success was finally attained.

The French regulars, commanded by Dieskau, fought with great heroism, but the Canadian Indians were of little assistance, and were dispersed by a few shots. The Senecas, who had been induced to join the French standard, on seeing themselves opposed by their own brethren, the Mohawks, discharged their weapons in the air and abandoned the conflict. Dieskau, the French general, was wounded and disabled, but refused to be carried from the field, and ordered his subordinate, Montreuil, to assume command and make the best retreat possible. The French were put to flight in such confusion that all their baggage and ammunition was left behind for the victors. Their loss amounted to about four hundred and fifty, while that of the English and Mohawks was nearly one hundred less.

The French were partially paralyzed by this defeat, but Gen. Johnson was charged with neglect of a grand opportunity. It was said that he might have taken Fort St. Frederick and Ticonderoga, while, on the other hand, he spent the summer in erecting Fort William Henry, at the

head of Lake George. The Mohawks, fearing an invasion of their villages by the Canada Indians, were permitted to return to their homes. The services of General Johnson on this occasion were rewarded with a baronetcy, his office of superintendent of Indian affairs was confirmed, and he was granted the sum of five thousand pounds. From this event was acquired the title by which he was ever afterwards known—"Sir William Johnson."

CHAPTER VI.

French and English War Continued — Results of the Campaigns in 1756 — French Successes in that and Succeeding Years — The Iroquois Divided — Johnson's Efforts to Unite Them — Webb's Disgraceful Conduct — The Mohawk Valley Invaded — Palatine Village Destroyed — Abercrombie's Neglect and Inefficiency — Campaigns of 1757-58 — English Successes — French Reverses — Johnson's Achievements — Extinction of the French Power in America.

STRANGE as it may appear, after the hostilities described in the preceding chapter, it was not until the following summer that war was formally proclaimed between Great Britain and France.

Three principal campaigns were organized in 1756; one against Fort Niagara with six thousand men, the second against Fort Du Quesne with three thousand men, and the third, by far the largest army yet assembled in the country, a force of ten thousand troops designed for the reduction of Crown Point, the occupation of the Champlain valley, and, if necessary, the invasion of Canada.

General John Winslow was in command of the latter, but was soon joined by General Abercrombie with reinforcements from Lord Loudon, governor of Virginia. Abercrombie at once removed the provincial officers and placed men in their stead men from the regular army, who, though versed in tactics, were wholly destitute of a knowledge of the methods of conducting military operations in such a region. Through the inactivity of the commanding officers nothing was accomplished in the way of taking the French strongholds, while at other points the results were equally unsatisfactory, and the campaigns ended with much greater advantage to the French than to the English.

The campaign of 1757 was arranged by the English in proportions equal to its predecessor, while the French army under Montcalm was by no means inactive. The latter had by this time not only gained the friendship of many of the western Iroquois, but had succeeded in enlisting them under the French standard. The league of the Iroquois was now so weakened as to have lost much of its power of union, and the brethren were no longer averse to warring against each other. In fact, at this time a large number of the Iroquois had become settled in Canada, chiefly on account of French successes in previous years and the constant apathy of the English; and even the strong influence of Sir William was no longer effectual in enlisting them in the cause which he represented. The greater part of the Mohawk nation, however, remained true to Sir William, their adopted chief, and were, with a fragment of other nations, factors in this campaign and that of the following year. Instead of being aggressors, the English officers appeared to prefer a mere defense. Their strong points in this province were at Fort William Henry and Fort Edward; the former garrisoned by Colonel Munro with five hundred men, and supported by seventeen hundred troops in an entrenched camp. General Webb was at Fort Edward, only fifteen miles away, with four thousand effective men. Munro therefore felt strong in his position, but when Montcalm laid siege to the fort and assistance became necessary, and was solicited, the cowardly Webb¹ withheld it, and even suggested that Munro should make terms of surrender with the French. Sir William Johnson with his Mohawk warriors and militia started to relieve the besieged garrison, but the commander in charge ordered his return. The natural and only result was the surrender of Fort William Henry, followed by the indiscriminate slaughter of a number of the prisoners, although, in justice to Montcalm, it must be said he did all in his power to prevent it. Fort William Henry was totally destroyed and its stores and munitions captured; and this with a loss to the French of only fifty-three men.

¹Another evidence of the consummate cowardice of General Webb was made apparent in his conduct at the German Flats, in the Mohawk valley. Two days before the surrender at Oswego Webb had been sent to the relief of that position. On the 20th day of August following, Sir William Johnson with two battalions of militia and three hundred Indians was sent to support Webb. At the Oneida carrying place news was received of the fall of Oswego, whereupon the terrified Webb, "fancying he already beheld his own scalp dangling from the waist of some brawny savage," caused trees to be immediately felled across Wood creek, and fled with his troops to the German Flats.

Webb at once prepared to retreat to the Hudson. Montcalm had intended an invasion of the Hudson river region, and the capture of Albany, but from the fact that his Canadian soldiers were needed at their homes to harvest their fields in order to avert a threatened famine, he retired satisfied with his success and glory. Meanwhile Loudon had had taken a position on Long Island; the English had been driven from the Ohio; Montcalm had restored the St. Lawrence valley to France, and Great Britain and her colonies were not only humiliated but were naturally fearful for the future. During the year 1757, there was made another disastrous invasion of the beautiful Mohawk valley by the French and Indians. At that time there were scattered settlements all through the vicinity of the river, the pioneers being chiefly Germans, or Palatines. They had become thrifty and were possessed of dwellings and fairly well tilled fields. They had been sufficiently apprised of the threatened invasion, and had they heeded the warnings give by the Oneida Indians they might have escaped, at least a part of the vengeance that fell so fearfully upon them. General Abercrombie too, was negligent in giving protection to the settlers and to the friendly Indians, although frequent requests had been made. Before daylight on the morning of November 12, the dwellers at the Palatine village were aroused by the terrific war-whoop, and immediately three hundred Canadians and Indians under Bellettre, attacked each block house. Some show of resistance was made, but without avail. The people of the village asked for quarter, but no mercy was shown. The dwellings were burned and their occupants ruthlessly tomahawked while they vainly endeavored to escape. Forty Germans in all were massacred and one hundred and fifty others carried away captives. In addition to these bloody horrors, the invaders captured large quantities of grain, three thousand cattle and as many sheep. This invasion so alarmed the settlers of the whole region that the inhabitants living elsewhere in the valley sought safety in flight to the settlements at Schenectady and Albany, and the villages of Stone Arabia and Cherry Valley became almost depopulated.

At the time this massacre took place Sir William Johnson was confined to his room by sickness, but through his secretary he at once sent word to the Oneidas and Tuscaroras, enquiring of them why they had

not warned the Germans of their danger. The Indians however were not at fault, as their warning had been duly given. Abercrombie was also addressed from the same source, and a correspondence of some warmth was conducted in relation to that officer's neglect of duty. Lord Loudon, who was in Albany about that time, was inclined to place the blame upon the Iroquois in general, and exhibited a strong desire to make war upon them; but fortunately the influence of Sir William Johnson prevailed, thereby averting the misery which would certainly have followed.

Although the campaign of the previous year had been one of disaster to the English, that very fact seemed to infuse a little spirit into the ministry, which found public expression chiefly through that gifted statesman, William Pitt. A million and a half of people inhabited the British colonies, and an army of some 50,000 men was subject to the commands of Abercrombie. Commercial intercourse with the mother country was almost untrammelled, and there seems no sufficient reason why the French power should not have been extinguished by one grand movement. This predominance of the English, however, was considerably impaired by the fact that the French had gained stronger influence over the Indians, and the Canadian population was more concentrated, while above all the French cause was under command of by far the most brilliant and able men. In the language of a contemporary, "Britain had sent to her colonies effete generals, bankrupt nobles and debauched parasites of the court. France selected her functionaries from the wisest, noblest and best of her people, and therefore, her colonial interests were usually directed with sagacity."

English hostilities began in 1758 with brilliant achievements by the rangers under Rogers and Putnam, which did not, however, seriously influence the general campaign. As in the preceding year three formidable expeditions were planned, the varied points being Louisburg, Fort Du Quesne and Ticonderoga. Louisburg was besieged, and after some weeks of vigorous defence, surrendered to the English. The army sent against Fort Du Quesne was commanded by General John Forbes, through whose dilatory movement, it came very near failure; but at last the decisive action of Washington restored victory to the English arms, and on the 24th of November the French set fire to the defences and fled down the Ohio river.

The capture of Ticonderoga, however, and the descent upon Montreal was the most important of these campaigns, being indeed the vital point in the war. A force of about 7,000 regulars and 9,000 provincials and a heavy train of artillery was assembled at the head of Lake George by the beginning of July. Unfortunately, however, the command of this fine army was given to General James Abercrombie. Judging well of his incapacity, Pitt sought to avert the probability of failure by the selection of Lord Howe, to whom was given the rank of brigadier-general, and he was made the controlling spirit of the expedition.

Early in the morning of July 5th this splendid army embarked upon Lake George, and two days later made a landing on Lake Champlain at the point that now bears Lord Howe's name. In the first engagement that took place he fell mortally wounded, and his death destroyed all the hope of a successful campaign. On the morning of the 8th Sir William Johnson arrived, accompanied by nearly four hundred Mohawks and other Indian warriors,¹ but at the same time the French army was reinforced by the arrival of De Levis and his 400 veterans. He had designed another invasion of the Mohawk valley, but had been ordered back to join the main body under Montcalm. During the engagement which followed, and in which the British were seriously defeated, Johnson and his Indians were posted on Mount Defiance (then known as Sugar Loaf Hill), and from their position were prevented from taking an active part in the battle. The details of this sanguinary conflict need not here be narrated; they are emblazoned on the pages of many a history. The assault was hopeless from the beginning, and while its bloody scenes were being enacted, under the watchful eye of the brilliant Montcalm, Abercrombie looked after the welfare of his own noble person amid the security of the saw-mills, two miles from the battle

¹ To give to the reader something of an idea of the difficulties that attended the gathering of this body of Indians, attention is directed to the following extracts from a letter addressed by Sir William Johnson to General Abercrombie: "Camp in the woods within ten miles of Fort Edward, July 5, 1758, six in the morning.

"SIR: I arrived here last night with near 200 men of the Five Nations and others. Mr. Crogan and some of the Indian officers are within a day's march of me with about 100 men, as I hear from letters from him." "I set off from my house last Tuesday with as many as I could there get sober to move with me, which were but a few, for liquor was as plenty among them as ditch-water, being brought up from Schenectady by their and other squaws as well as whites, and sold to them at night in spite of all I could do. These have since joined me by small parties. I assure your excellency, no man ever had more trouble than I have had to get them away from the liquor; and if the fate of the whole country depended upon my moving a day sooner, I could not do it without leaving them behind, and disgusting all the nations, etc."

field, and before early dawn of the morning of the 10th, he had placed the length of Lake George between himself and his conquerors. The total loss to the British was more than 2,000 men; of the French, about 500 men. This terrible and probably unnecessary catastrophe was partially offset by the successful siege of Fort Frontenac, which capitulated to Bradstreet on the 26th of August.

While Abercrombie thus dallied in contemptible indecision, Montcalm, reinforced with 3,000 Canadians and 600 Indians, was vigilant and persistent, striking wherever he could detect a vulnerable point. The events thus far recorded seem to indicate an early approaching triumph of the French cause in America, but really a dark reverse was imminent. Canada was suffering the horrors of famine and was almost depopulated of men who had been required to fill the military ranks. Montcalm was persistently appealing to the crown for aid, but the government could only furnish provisions and ammunition. On the other hand the English now appeared to have been stirred to renewed action through the zeal of William Pitt, and the year 1759 opened with far better prospects of success for the British arms. Changes had been made in military affairs; Abercrombie had been superseded by General Amherst, and when the latter appealed to the colonists for militia reinforcements they willingly complied with the request, although they were heavily burdened with debt on account of previous expenditures.

The proposed campaign of the year comprised, in addition to the conquest of Ticonderoga, the capture of Fort Niagara and the siege of Quebec. On the 7th day of July, General Prideaux was joined by Sir William Johnson, between whom there existed warm friendship, quite the reverse of the relations between the latter and Abercrombie. It was agreed by both officers that Oswego and Fort Niagara were important positions, and ought to be taken during the campaign. For this purpose Johnson was to assemble as many as possible of the Iroquois and join the expedition under Prideaux. As early as January 18, Johnson held a conference with Mohawk and Seneca chiefs¹ at

¹ The Senecas were by this time distrustful of the French and wavered between uncertain possibilities. They desired to be with the victors, and the general result of the previous year had not brought to the French arms the success the commanders had promised. Moreover the Indian faith in the French had been considerably shaken by treacheries, and many of the savages were anxious to return to their old allegiance.

Canajoharie castle, his purpose being to call a general council of as many of the Iroquois as could be induced to attend, and if possible unite them all under his standard. The result was that in April following, another council was held at Canajoharie and assurances given by the savages of their willingness to join Johnson in the expedition. When he arrived at Prideaux's camp, Johnson had in his command no less than 700 dusky warriors, as well as a strong force of provincial troops.

After the surrender of the fort at Niagara, Johnson and his forces remained in the neighborhood, and also at Oswego, until the 14th of October when he departed for Mount Johnson.

In the Champlain regions the English armies were also successful. Montcalm had taken a position at Quebec, to defend the stronghold against the assaults of General Wolfe; and there both of these brave officers found their graves. General Amherst laid siege to Ticonderoga, which was defended by a garrison of 400 men under Boulamarque. The fort was evacuated on July 26, and this was soon followed by the withdrawal of the French from Crown Point.

The domination of France was ended by the fall of Quebec, September 18, 1759, thus leaving the English masters of all Canada, for the surrender of Vaudreuil on the 8th of the next September was an inevitable result.

Although hostilities between the two nations had now ceased, a formal peace was not established until 1763, when, on the 10th of February, the treaty of Paris was signed, by which France ceded to Great Britain all her possessions in Canada. On the 30th of July, 1760, Governor De Lancey, of New York, suddenly died, and the government passed into the hands of Cadwallader Colden, who was commissioned lieutenant governor in August, 1761. In October of that year General Robert Monkton was appointed governor of the province of New York.



John Sanford

CHAPTER VII.

Early Settlement of the Mohawk Valley — Van Corlear's Patent — Settlement at Schenectady — German Palatinates at Schoharie Creek, at Canajoharie and Palatine Village — Their Character and Customs — Located there as a Defense against the French Invasions — The Plan not Fully Successful — Sir William Johnson forms the Germans into Militia Companies — French and Indian Land Grants — Charters of New York and Pennsylvania Compared — The Former a Royal Province — Patents Issued Including Lands in Montgomery County.

AS has been briefly mentioned in one of the preceding chapters, civilized settlement began in the Mohawk valley in 1661, when Arent Van Corlear purchased from the Indian proprietors a large tract of land in the vicinity of Fort Orange, and another covering the present site of Schenectady. In 1684, nearly twenty years after the conquest of the Dutch by the English, the purchases made by Corlear were confirmed by Governor Dongan. During the period of the early wars between the French and Indians, there was but little attempt at settlement in any of the frontiers, such efforts being attended with many hardships and great danger. Even Schenectady, protected as it may have been, was (as has been narrated), surprised and destroyed by the French and Canadian savages in February, 1690. Notwithstanding this fearful tragedy, before the lapse of a little more than a score of years another attempt was made at the colonization of the valley, and this time too in the region farther west, being within the territory afterward formed into Montgomery county.

During the early years of the seventeenth century, Europe was subjected to a series of religious wars, in which the Romanists were opposed to Protestantism, their determination being to crush the latter out of existence. One of the localities seriously affected by this conflict was the Lower Palatinate in Germany; a province peopled by a hardy, though obstinate and ignorant race. To escape persecution this people fled from their native country and found temporary refuge in England. In 1702 Queen Anne succeeded King William, and the way

was soon provided by which the German refugees were given a home in the new world. The first of the Palatinates (as they were called), arrived in New York in 1707, followed in 1710 by a larger number—estimated at three thousand. The projectors of the colonization scheme intended that the Palatinates should settle in the Mohawk valley, but on examination of that region with reference to its adaptability the scheme was found to be impracticable, and the emigrants were located in the Hudson river country. A portion of the original number, however, remained in New York, while many went to Pennsylvania and became permanent residents. There were many causes which wrought dissatisfaction among the Palatinates in the Hudson river district, chief among which was the fact that they were obliged to serve under government agents; who were often both tyrannical and dishonest.

From this and other causes the poor Germans became greatly discontented with their abode, and many determined to seek homes elsewhere, particularly in the region which (as they claimed) Queen Anne had promised them. In fact they were so bent in this purpose that the authorities were obliged to use force to hold them to their contracts. At last the officers in charge became discouraged in their endeavors to improve such refractory settlers, and therefore permitted them to gratify their desires, the government hoping the removal might afford protection against the incursions of the French, and their Indian allies. In 1712, by permission of the Mohawks, a number of these families located on the Schoharie Creek, but later on they had disputes concerning their land titles. In 1723 colonies of Palatinates moved farther up the Mohawk and settled at Canajoharie and Palatine. In 1722 a number of them purchased lands in the vicinity of Fort Hunter, while others settled on West Canada creek. On the 19th of October, 1723, Stone Arabia patent was granted to twenty-seven Palatinate families whose members numbered one hundred and twenty-seven. Their lands included 12,700 acres, which were divided into twenty-seven equal parts, and laid out into lots to assist in this division.

The provincial authorities erred in their estimate of the value of the German settlers as a means of protection against invasion. On the contrary the very character and customs of this people seemed to almost invite a hostile attack, and it was not until several years after the arrival

of Colonel William Johnson that they held any semblance of military organization. They were careless of their own interests and reckless of their safety, either personal or of property. This was clearly shown when in November, 1757, the inhabitants of Palatine village received timely warning of an imminent French and Indian attack, but they disregarded the friendly caution and their hamlet was destroyed and many of its people killed or carried into captivity. Notwithstanding the above mentioned defect, the Palatines were prosperous, and contributed much to the early development and welfare of the Mohawk valley region. They increased rapidly in numbers, each succeeding generation being an improvement; and in the valley to-day are many of the descendants of the original settlers who have reached wealth and distinction. Sir William Johnson afterward organized many of these Palatines into militia companies, nine of them all told, and he called them together whenever there appeared any reason to expect an invasion. In this way the Germans were beneficial in protecting the region, for the mere knowledge of a regiment of armed militia, together with nearly two hundred thoroughly trained Mohawk warriors, and all under command of an officer so skillful as Sir William Johnson, had a subduing effect upon the ardor of the French and their savage Canadian allies.

During the period of French and English rivalry in America, both powers derived a revenue by the sales and also the more extensive "grants" of the lands in their domain. Each, however, required as a condition precedent to the full occupation and enjoyment of the territory, that the Indian title should first be extinguished by purchase or release. The French grants covered such tracts (mainly in the northern portion of New York), as were not included in English land charters, but with the final overthrow of French power in America the greater number of these were annulled, and the lands were afterward sold to British subjects, though a few of the original seigniories were confirmed to their proprietors through royal grace and clemency.

The British power in the colony of New York had no real existence until after the conquest of the Dutch. In fact the grant to the Duke of York was not made until 1664, a year only before the occupation of the New Netherlands. The introduction of this subject naturally leads us to an examination of the peculiar character of the grant of the prov-

ince of New York, and those points in which it differs from almost all others on this continent, although they emanated chiefly from the same source. No better illustration of this difference can be made than by comparing the charters of Pennsylvania and New York.

The former was granted to William Penn in payment of a debt due his father, Admiral William Penn, from the British government. By that charter the fee in the province passed to the grantee, subject only to the Indian title, which Penn was obliged to extinguish at his own cost. This having been done, the patentee was the absolute owner of the lands thus granted; and all emoluments were his own. Of similar character also was the charter by which in 1664 Charles II granted to his brother James, Duke of York and Albany, the vast territory which included all that is now the state of New York. The Duke of York, by that grant (and others of later date), became proprietor of the land, with the same rights and powers, and subject to the same conditions regarding Indian titles, as William Penn; and the patents which were made to various sub-proprietors, either to favorites or for considerations, between 1664 and 1685, by the duke, were made from the same relative position as Penn occupied during his proprietorship.

In 1685, however, the Duke of York himself became king of Great Britain, and as his charter naturally merged in the crown, the government of his possessions changed from a proprietary one to a "royal province." Instead of being governor of the colony, the king held the power only of appointing that functionary, and thus indirectly controlling its affairs, but still receiving specified revenues from its land sales.

Little was done in the way of granting land in the province of New York earlier than the first quarter of the seventeenth century, although under the duke's title some grants were made even before he became king. But after the year 1734, and particularly after the English and French were really contending for supremacy in America, the government disposed of much of the available territory of the province, and it is a noticeable fact that by far the greater part of the early land grants included portions of old Tryon county, though as yet in possession of the Mohawks. An explanation is found in the fact that this region was under the special control of Sir William Johnson. His influence among

the Mohawk Indians is surprising to all who do not consider the relations that existed between himself and the red men, and the great value of the presents he made them. We know, indeed, that during the last score of years of Sir William's life, the Mohawks were to a large degree dependent upon his bounty for their support, and under such circumstances we are not surprised to learn that for a merely nominal consideration he could induce them to part with such of their domain as he or his favorites desired to possess. It has been asserted that the baronet secured the Indian title to the immense tract known as the royal grant from King Hendrick as the result of a dream, but while many doubt this story, its narration suggests the extraordinary influence of Sir William over the Mohawk nation. According to the records, the royal grant embraced ninety-three thousand acres of land lying between East and West Canada creeks, and north of the Mohawk river, and was patented to Sir William Johnson by letters issued April 16, 1765. King Hendrick was killed in September, 1755, ten years previously; and yet it may be true that the old chief released the Indian title long before his death, and the purchase thus made was confirmed by the king ten years afterward.

The titles of many of the old land grants are still preserved and are occasionally referred to in modern conveyances. The reader will of course understand that all these grants were made prior to the revolution, but though issued during the British dominion, many were afterward confirmed by the state authorities, while the other portion was confiscated and sold as the property of enemies. These persons were called tories, and though they did not in all cases bear arms against American independence, their conduct was sufficiently inimical to justify confiscation. The most important instance of this kind was found in Johnson Hall and the surrounding estate. It was sold by the state authorities, and was finally purchased by the ancestor of the present Wells family, in whose possession it still remains.

Beginning soon after 1700, and thence throughout the years down to the outbreak of the revolutionary war, there was granted to various individuals and companies an aggregate of more than a thousand square miles of land in what afterward became Montgomery county; and while these many patents had a bearing on the early history of this region,

further reference to them at this time is not necessary, as they are made a part of the history of the towns in which they were respectively situated.

CHAPTER VIII.

SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON, BARONET.

A CONDENSED HISTORY OF THE LIFE OF THE FOUNDER OF JOHNSTOWN.

HAVING made frequent reference to that remarkable man known first as William Johnson, land agent; then as Colonel Johnson; later as General Johnson, and finally as Sir William, we now propose a brief review of the leading events of his life, though we shall hardly expect to do justice to the most eminent character in the civil and military record of the province of New York, being limited to a mere outline of his illustrious career.

William Johnson, the son of Christopher and Anne (Warren) Johnson, was born in county Down, Ireland, in the year 1715. His uncle, Sir Peter Warren, had married an American woman, and became possessed of an extensive tract of land in the Mohawk valley. It contained 14,000 acres (originally granted in 1735 to Charles Williams) and located between the Mohawk and Schoharie rivers, in what is now the town of Florida. In 1738 William Johnson came hither to serve as superintendent of this estate, whose development was of great importance to its proprietor, since the purchase was a speculation from which he had great hope of financial profit. With this view young Johnson, under the direction of his uncle, cleared part of the land, putting it under cultivation, and also surveyed the entire tract, dividing it in a manner that would attract settlers of limited means. An important feature in this work was the erection of a mill. He also established himself in trade, a store being necessary to public convenience, and thus extended every inducement that could assist the new settlement. Later on, in view of the hostility between the British and French, and as well be-

tween the Iroquois Indians and their savage enemies in Canada, he erected a fortress which was called "Fort Johnson," on whose site Fort Hunter was afterward built. This was his home for several years, and from this point all his business operations were extended; but while doing full justice to his patron he omitted no opportunity to advance his personal interests, and early won that reputation for fair dealing which was always so prominent a feature in his character.

Such a life could not but render the young land agent familiar with the Indians. He adapted himself to their habits and language, and gained their confidence and enduring friendship. His intercourse with the Mohawks rendered him popular with the entire Six Nations, who thenceforth regarded him as their friend and protector. As a result he had no difficulty in acquiring Indian titles to such land as he desired, and he was also serviceable to his friends in procuring similar favors. To such a degree was this acquisition extended that at the time of his death he was the owner of various tracts in the country of the Mohawks, and also in other western nations of the confederacy, to the enormous extent of more than 173,000 acres.

The young land agent, like most adventurers, was unmarried, but he soon employed a housekeeper, a comely German girl, named Catherine Wisenberg, whom he afterwards married¹. She became the mother of three children, one son (John) and two daughters, one of whom became the wife of his nephew, Col. Guy Johnson, and the other the wife of Colonel Daniel Claus. After the death of his wife (the precise date of which is unknown) Johnson, who had then become colonel, took as housekeeper Molly Brant, sister of Joseph Brant, the famous Mohawk chief. She bore him eight children, each of whom was abundantly provided for in the baronet's will; but as his entire estate was afterwards confiscated and sold, none of his heirs ever possessed their inheritance.

It was not until George Clinton² became governor of the province of New York that this "Mr. Johnson" became at all prominent in public

¹ This marriage ceremony was performed by Mr. Barkley, the Episcopal minister residing at Fort Hunter, where he officiated in the stone church built by direction of Queen Anne for the Mohawk Indians. (Yates)

² This George Clinton is not to be confounded with our patriotic governor of the same name.

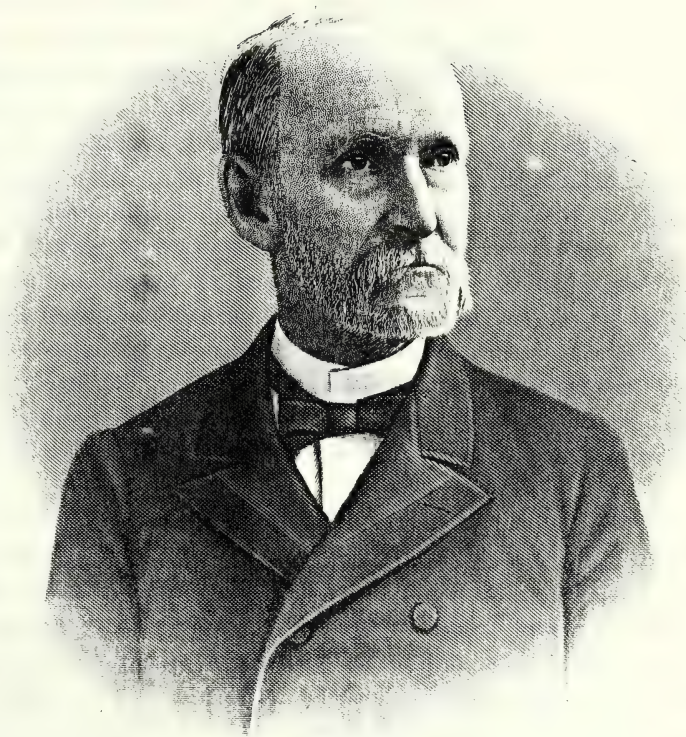
affairs. He had been previously occupied with the details of business, but with Governor Clinton he appears to have formed an intimate friendship. About this time (1742) he moved from the Warren tract to the north side of the Mohawk river, locating at a place named by him "Mount Johnson," where he erected a substantial stone mansion, now owned and occupied by Ethan Akin. In 1745 Johnson was appointed one of the justices of the peace of Albany county, an appointment which was the recognition of services among the Indians, holding the latter firm in their allegiance, and thus counteracting their preference of the French standard, a natural result of the Jesuit influence.

So highly appreciated, indeed, were these services that in 1746 he was appointed superintendent of Indian affairs in the entire province, a duty which extended through a vast territory. He was, however, so well known to all the Iroquois that he had their confidence and was really the object of their admiration, a natural result of his uniform honesty as well as decision of character. Such indeed was his popularity that the Mohawks adopted him into their nation, making him a chief with the title of Warre-haha¹. Four years later (1750) opposition was created against Colonel Johnson. He was falsely accused of using his influence for selfish ends, and while this charge was never sustained it so embarrassed him that he resigned the superintendency of Indian affairs; nor would he again accept the office when subsequently requested to resume its duties, until he yielded to Braddock's solicitation.

The title of "Colonel Johnson" first appeared in 1746 in correspondence which he held with Governor Clinton, and soon afterwards he was ordered to organize the militia for frontier defence. In obedience to this commission he formed the Germans and other settlers into militia companies; and thus the former land agent, now known as "Colonel Johnson," having this force under his command, together with his Indian allies, established a formidable barrier against the so dreaded French invasions.

In 1750 Colonel Johnson received a still higher honor, being appointed a member of the governor's council, a body whose decisions controlled the highest public interests. His opinions in its deliberations

¹ Johnson's Indian name is differently given in a preceding chapter.



Stephen Sanford



John G. Thompson

had a peculiar value because of his familiarity with Indian affairs, and here he proved eminently useful. As an acknowledgment of his services, and also as a compensation for advances and expenditures made for the public benefit among the Indians, Colonel Johnson was voted by the council a belt of land two miles in width surrounding Onondaga lake, and including, of course, the site of Syracuse, whose salt springs had even then attracted attention.

We now reach that interval of almost peaceful nature which preceded the last struggle between the French and the British, and Colonel Johnson improved this opportunity to advance the welfare of his estates, which were rapidly increasing in extent as well as in value; but he also found time to elevate the condition of those around him, and especially to promote the civilization and education of his Indian dependencies. He became a patron of the mission schools and placed Joseph Brant, then one of the most promising Mohawk youths, at the Indian school in Lebanon. His prominence in public affairs, however, continued, for he, like all other of prophetic ken, foresaw the approaching crisis.

Jealousy is the inevitable penalty of public service, and the commissioners of Indian affairs were envious of his influence among the Iroquois. The Indians, too, became discontented and inclined to rebel against the power that restrained them; they called loudly for the reinstatement of their old superintendent, and on this point King Hendrick and his brother, Abraham, were clamorous. In obedience to this request, Johnson submitted a report to the governor on the government of the Six Nations, with suggestions for observance. He also placed the militia of the province in condition for active service.

In 1755 the final conflict for supremacy in America was begun between England and France, and immediately we find Colonel Johnson foremost in every military expedition. How signally he distinguished himself when disaster came to the British arms in every other quarter, is brilliantly recorded on the page of history. On the earnest invitation of General Braddock, he attended the military conference at Alexandria, where he received command both of the provincial militia and the warriors of the Six Nations in the expedition against Crown Point, his rank being major-general. Braddock also induced Johnson to serve

as superintendent of Indian affairs, giving him sole power and commissioning him to treat with the confederate nations in order to unite them in support of British interests. This investment of authority was followed by a grand council at Mount Johnson, and the long sought alliance was accomplished ; but when General Johnson marched for Lake George the jealousy of Governor Shirley prompted him to use every means to discredit Johnson, and even to attempt to win from him the friendship of the Mohawks in order to rally them under his own standard.

Having previously described the expedition against Crown Point, it is sufficient here to state that it was only through the timely arrival and persistent efforts of General Johnson that victory was secured. Early in the battle which decided the fate of war, he was wounded¹ and was obliged to retire from the field, but while succeeded by General Lyman, he still in part directed the action, and yet, notwithstanding its grand success, he incurred censure for neglecting to attack the French fort at Crown Point, which some thought might have been captured easily, as the enemy was too severely beaten to make a successful defense. Instead of doing this Johnson erected Fort William Henry at the head of Lake George, but whatever may have been the truth of the above mentioned censure, it is evident that the public was in approval of Johnson's conduct, and congratulations were freely bestowed both by the province and the crown. The former tendered him an ovation and public reception in New York city, while the latter made him a baronet, and he was thenceforth known as "Sir William."

Parliament also voted him thanks for his victory, and a more substantial reward was added in the handsome gift of five thousand pounds. These gratuities were followed by a commission as "Colonial Agent, and sole Superintendent of all the affairs of the Six Nations and other Northern Indians "

The last mentioned appointment was the source of much gratification to all the Indians and especially to the Mohawks. About this time, 1756, the Pennsylvania Indians became hostile to the colonists, and the superintendent was called upon to prevent violence. Several conferences were held, and though serious trouble was threatened, it was averted by this timely intervention.

¹ General Johnson was wounded in the hip, from which he was ever afterward a constant sufferer, and no doubt the injuries received in this campaign did much to shorten his life.

Sir William now suffered much from his wound, and this increased the burden of public affairs, but when he was called upon to support Webb at German Flats he responded promptly and witnessed the distress of that cowardly officer on learning of the fall of Oswego. The next year he joined the army under Abercombie, having in his own command the organized militia of the Mohawk valley, and also his faithful Indian allies, but the inefficiency of the commander-in-chief prevented his engaging the enemy—a service which he had earnestly requested. Disaster at this time attended public affairs, and in addition to those which befell the army in the Champlain valley, came the destruction of Palatine village, occurring at a time when Sir William was confined to his bed by sickness. As soon, however, as returning health permitted he reorganized his militia for active service and marched to the scene of conflict.

An army was sent against Fort Niagara in 1759, under the command of Prideaux, but as he was slain at an early time in the siege, Sir William succeeded him, and having defeated the attempt to relieve the beleaguered garrison, he eventually secured a signal victory. This campaign being ended he returned to Fort Johnson, and it may be added that the victories which marked this year really brought the French dominion in Canada to a close, though three years elapsed before the terms of peace were specified by treaty. This pacific interval enabled Sir William to attend to his personal affairs, which had suffered much for want of care. As has been mentioned, he had acquired large landed estates, having purchased from the original patentees many desirable tracts, among which was included what afterward became the township of Johnstown. Impressed with its eligibility he founded a settlement on this spot, though a year or more elapsed before marked progress was made in colonization. This work was also retarded by the campaign of 1760, when he with his Mohawk warriors were summoned to the aid of General Amherst in his movement against the now weakened French positions in the Champlain valley. Serious Indian troubles also occurred the next year in the northwest, and his presence as superintendent was required to pacify the savages and secure an amicable settlement of difficulties. This duty required a journey to far distant Detroit, which Sir William, notwithstanding his infirmities, undertook and ac-

complished, being accompanied by his son John and his nephew Guy Johnson. On the return journey the baronet was again prostrated by illness and was obliged to remain several days at Niagara before he could resume his homeward route.

Peace being now proclaimed, and the Indian troubles practically settled, Sir William once more devoted himself to his personal interests. In 1762 he induced one hundred families to settle in his new village of Johnstown, and as an additional bounty, he gave the Lutherans and Presbyterians each fifty acres of land as a glebe for pastoral support. Previously to this he had erected a summer residence on the northwestern border of the great plain, in the present town of Broadalbin, to which he gave the dignified name of Castle Cumberland. He also built a lodge on the south bank of the Sacandaga, in what is now the town of Northampton, where he was accustomed to resort during the fishing season, and the spot even to the present retains its early name, the "Fish House." Agriculture and stock raising also shared his attention, and to improve the breed of domestic animals he brought blooded sheep and horses into his settlement.

Public affairs, however, soon again required his attention, this being occasioned by a disaffection among the Indians in Pennsylvania, and grievances inflicted on the Mohawks who justly complained that their lands had been withheld or invaded by the settlers. Such complaints were familiar to Sir William, who again brought the troubles to a satisfactory close, and the Indians again learned that they had no wiser and firmer friend than the baronet. The treaty at Easton was made and confirmed, and Sir William returned to Mount Johnson, where soon afterward (1762) his daughter Nancy was married to Col. Daniel Claus. The remainder of the year was occupied by the baronet in preparing his timber and other material to be used in the construction of Johnson Hall, an elegant baronial mansion, completed in 1763, and thenceforth his dwelling until the close of his life. This building still stands within the limits of the village of Johnstown. It may, however, be added incidentally that the settlers brought to this spot were chiefly Germans, while nearly four miles north he settled a colony of Scotch Highlanders, who were also his dependents and faithful followers. They occupied the region until the Revolutionary war, and then by reason of their

allegiance to Sir John Johnson many of them fled with their protector and found refuge in Canada.

But even within the quiet and retirement of Johnson Hall, surrounded by faithful friends and devoted servants, Sir William Johnson found no permanent peace from the cares of public life and service, for no sooner had he arranged for his own comfort than there came mutterings of another outbreak, followed soon afterward by open warfare against the rapidly advancing settlements of the English and American pioneers. Pontiac's war threatened not only the safety of the frontiers, but as well the interior settlements whose destruction was planned. The wrath of many western Indian tribes had become aroused, and their emissaries visited the Six Nations, hoping that they also would be persuaded to take up the hatchet. The situation at once became alarming, and prompt and decisive action was required. Public peril thus called the baronet from his comfortable home. His energies were directed to the confederate nations, and as the result of his negotiations all the tribes promised friendship, with the exception of the Senecas, who, after much persuasion, agreed to neutrality. By this treaty, which was a renewed proof of the wonderful influence of the baronet, the frontier and also the colonies of New York and New England were well protected, in as much as between them and the exasperated savages lay the country of the Iroquois—a secure barrier which no foe dare pass. Other measures for defence were also prosecuted, for Sir William did not depend upon the red man's promise unsupported by his own efforts. The militia were stationed at convenient points, ready for action if required. Pontiac's Indians required vigilant watching, since they bore a special hatred against Sir William, chiefly because of his influence over the Iroquois, and hence they determined upon his destruction. The baronet, however, became aware of their murderous purpose and therefore armed his tenantry and surrounded Johnson Hall with a strong stockade. His greatest safety, however, lay in the protection freely offered by his faithful Mohawk warriors, and fortunately, during Pontiac's war, the New York settlements were unmolested.

For two years next preceding the close of the year 1765, there was continual commotion among the Indians of the western frontier, and the baronet found his whole energies required in either fitting out expedi-

tions to repel invasions and punish outrages, or in negotiating peace treaties. In 1764 he held a grand council at Niagara, whose most important result was the Senecas ceding to the British government a tract four miles wide on each side of the Niagara river, and extending from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie. They additionally granted to the baronet all the islands in the same river, which he, in turn, ceded to the crown. At the same time Sir William was greatly disturbed by events other than those relating to Indian affairs. The patentees who had purchased lands of the crown on the promise to satisfy the Indian titles had been guilty of many unjust dealings, and had succeeded in trapping the untutored natives into land conveyances without adequate compensation. The owners sought to occupy and settle under their patents, and their fraud thus became known to the Mohawks, who, finding themselves thus defrauded, became deeply indignant. A similar animosity spread throughout the Six Nations, and renewed disaster was threatened.

The chief cause of this wide spread discontent was created by the granting of the patent of Kayaderosseras, an act permitted by the crown and sanctioned by the provincial government. Its proprietors represented to the Indians that the land sought to be obtained by them would include in extent only enough to make a small farm, and they released their title for nominal consideration; in fact the patent included the great amount of about 700,000 acres, and the fraud was not discovered until the deed of cession had been made. Parts of Montgomery and Fulton counties were included by the patent, as will be seen by reference to the previous chapter. Through the efforts of Sir William the Mohawks were restored to a part of their lands, and so far as possible he rectified the great wrong which they had suffered; but in this attempt he was opposed by powerful political influences exerted by the proprietors, and no small amount of both time and effort was required to accomplish the much desired result.

The adverse influences which constantly beset the baronet in the province operated in other modes of injury. He had earnestly espoused the cause of the Indians, being indeed their official protector, therefore reports of his impending removal were circulated. The unscrupulous proprietors justly considered him an obstacle in the way of their nefarious designs. That hoped for removal, however, was never accom-

plished; on the contrary Sir William's influence increased, and he was soon gratified by the news that his son John, who was then in England, had been knighted by the king. This was conclusive proof of the royal confidence in the baronet's ability and integrity. During the same year (1766) Sir William built a grist-mill for the benefit of his tenants, gave personal attention to the erection of an Episcopal Church at Schenectady, fitted up at his own expense a Masonic lodge room at Johnson Hall, and built commodious stone dwellings for his sons-in-law, Guy Johnson and Daniel Claus, to each of which he added the gift of a square mile of land. The mansion and estate of Guy Johnson is now included in the suburbs of Amsterdam, and has long been known as "Guy Park"; that of Colonel Claus was located about midway from Mount Johnson to the Park. Sir John Johnson first lived at the Hall with his father, but having married Miss Mary Watts, of New York city, on June 29, 1773, they began housekeeping at Mount Johnson.

The restoration of peace again enabled the baronet to give attention to his much neglected business affairs. He devoted himself to the development of the estate at the Hall, and also to the improvement of his tenantry, while the educational and spiritual welfare of his Mohawk dependents had a full share in his efforts. Many indeed of these once savage warriors had become thrifty and successful farmers, and Sir William gave them every possible encouragement. He also built a church at Canajoharie for their use and supplied their school with a teacher. It was at this time of usefulness that the king, in recognition of his eminent service, granted to him the immense tract called the "Royal Grant," lying between East and West Canada creeks. Its extent was 69,000 acres, and it included the site of Little Falls and part of the village of Herkimer.

In 1771 Johnstown had become a thriving and prosperous business centre, and all through the Mohawk valley settlements were increasing with marked improvement in agriculture. Johnstown soon required new streets, for during the year 1770 eighty families had come there to live. Lumber for building was supplied from the baronet's mill, and other necessities were furnished through his bounty. In March, 1771, he built St. John's Church, commonly called the "Stone Church," and in the same month advertised in the New York papers for a teacher for the free school which he had established.

Notwithstanding, however, the apparent peace and prosperity that prevailed on every hand, the baronet was seriously troubled both in body and mind. He was afflicted by a serious malady and every remedy failed to restore health. In addition to personal ailment was that dark cloud which he saw gathering in the political horizon. He well knew its cause, and evidently forecast the inevitable result. The mother country had burdened the colonies with oppressive measures which taxed both their means and patience beyond endurance. Long years of experience in public life had made Sir William conversant with the needs as well as the capacity of the country, and also with the temperament of the people. He beheld the public grievances, yet was powerless to remove the burden. A servant of the crown, as well as its beneficiary, he was a sad and silent observer of all that occurred, and his unerring judgment told him at once that a rupture with Great Britain was inevitable. He did not, however, live to participate in the conflict that followed these premonitory signs and which ended in national independence and the creation of the Republic of the United States.

Previous to this important event, Sir William became an active factor in the organization of two new counties, being in this movement the counselor of Governor Tryon, then chief executive of the province. The plan and petition for dividing Albany county was first suggested in 1769, but the bill for that purpose was opposed and defeated. In 1772 another petition was sent to the legislature by Sir William, and after a brief delay he was gratified to learn that the bill had become a law. This subject will be more fully discussed in one of the later chapters of this work, and yet a brief allusion to it at the present time is appropriate.

The original county of Albany was created in 1683, and was confirmed in 1691, but its jurisdiction then included the entire province of New York, together with that disputed territory then called the "New Hampshire Grants," but now part of Vermont. The bill which was passed in 1772 divided Albany county and created three counties—Albany, Tryon and Charlotte. Tryon included all that part of the province west of the Delaware river and a line extending thence north through what is now Schoharie county, and along the east line of Mont-



John Sanford

gomery, Fulton and Hamilton counties, and continuing in a straight line to Canada. Charlotte county included the New Hampshire grants north of the north lines of the towns of Arlington and Sunderland in Vermont, and a continuation of that line west to the Tryon county line. The remainder of New York, with part of Vermont, constituted Albany county.

Sir William lived to see this organization completed. In fact he was not only one of its originators but designed its temporary offices, nominated those who were elected by the people and controlled its affairs during his lifetime. Johnstown was designated the county seat. The court-house and jail were built the same year, the first term of court being held in September. The baronet also, at the suggestion of the governor, divided the new county into provincial districts, or townships they would now be called.

During 1772, Governor Tryon, accompanied by his wife, visited Sir William's palatial home, the ostensible object being to hold a council with the Mohawks, but in reality it was to learn what might be the most desirable lands in that region, for the worthy governor had a desire to speculate. During his stay, however, he reviewed the various regiments of troops under Sir William's command—three in number, one being composed of residents of Johnstown and its vicinity. In recognition of Sir William's services in organizing so effective a body of militia, Governor Tryon soon honored him with a commission as major-general of the northern department, a position he held during the remainder of his life.

From this time until 1774 we have a quiet interval, but in the last mentioned year Indian troubles again demanded the attention of the superintendent, arising from a revolt in Pennsylvania, which seriously threatened the peace of the Six Nations. Johnson, although unfit for duty by reason of illness, consented to hold a council at the hall. Six hundred of the confederates were present, and the baronet addressed the chiefs and sachems for two hours, all the time being exposed to the burning heat of a July sun. The exertion required by such an effort produced a fit, from which he died the next day, July 11, 1774. "His funeral," says a reliable authority, "was the most solemn demonstration the colonies up to that time had ever witnessed. The clergyman

in attendance was the Rev. Mr. Stewart, missionary at Fort Hunter, and the funeral procession numbered over 2,000, including colonial dignitaries and Indians, who were bereaved of a lifelong friend. He was buried in a vault erected beneath the floor of St. John's church for the family, but he was the only one of the number who ever occupied it."

Sir William, six months before his death, prepared a will disposing of his property and estate, by which he made abundant provisions for the children born to him by Catherine Wisenberg and Molly Brant, and also to other beneficiaries, but his principal devisee was his son, Sir John, who inherited the estate at Johnstown with other vast tracts of land, and to whom also descended the influence and power exercised by the baronet over the Six Nations. One especial injunction in Sir William's will clearly indicates the true character of the testator; it really revealed his heart: "I do earnestly recommend to my son to show lenity to such of the tenants as are poor, and an upright conduct with all mankind, which will on reflection afford more satisfaction to a noble and generous mind than the greatest opulence." But the will of the baronet, although elaborately prepared, and legally signed and witnessed, was never executed.

Had Sir William lived it is confidently believed he would have espoused the cause of the colonies against the mother country, in which event one of the most magnificent estates in the country would have been confirmed to him, but his successors, and particularly his son Sir John, allied themselves to the British, and as a result the estate was confiscated and sold for the public benefit.

While Sir John Johnson succeeded to the baronial estate of his father, and also, as far as possible, to his influence among the Indians, the office of superintendent of Indian affairs was committed to Colonel Guy Johnson, assisted by Colonel Daniel Claus, the latter having been deputy superintendent to Sir William in Canada.

CHAPTER IX.

Situation in Tryon County from the Close of the French War to the Revolution — British Oppression Causes Discontent — The Stamp Act — Duties Levied on other Commodities — The Boston Tea Party — First Congress at Philadelphia — New York Opposes the Action of Congress — Districts of Tryon County — Guy Johnson Disperses the Meeting at Caughnawaga — Attack upon Jacob Sammons — Action of Loyalists — Guy Park Fortified — General Meeting of the Tryon County Committee — Its Object — Guy Johnson Departs for Canada — Conduct of Sir John — He Fortifies the Hall and Arms the Highlanders — His Arrest, Parole and Flight to Canada — The Estate Confiscated — Character and Duties of the Committees of Safety.

THE years immediately preceding the revolution were filled with important events connected with the history of Tryon county; and in no part of which was there a greater diversity of sentiment than in that which afterward became Montgomery county.

The political situation in Tryon county during the revolution and indeed for some years previous, was at once novel and interesting, since it included influences politically antagonistic, while socially there was no animosity among the pioneers, and good will and friendship prevailed on every hand. The settlements founded by the direct influence of Sir William Johnson in the Mohawk valley were entirely under his control during his life, and their militia was subject to his command. His death, however, and the succession of his son (so far as it was possible for the latter to succeed him), caused a marked change in political events; one indeed which created not only a division of sentiment, but in many instances the rupture of friendship. Had Sir William lived a few years longer his love of America might have led him to espouse her cause, and many think his policy indicated such a purpose; but Sir John, and his brothers in-law, Guy Johnson and Daniel Claus, were creatures of the king, having no sentiment in common with the people, being evidently imbued with aristocratic notions.

Continuing this inquiry into the condition of public matters, we are led to examine the prevailing causes of the above mentioned division, both in sentiment and action, and it also occasions a review of those

events which precipitated the war. A careful examination of the Mohawk valley at the time referred to leads to the conviction that the patriots were strongly in the majority. The taxation to which the colonies were subjected by the mother country really began almost as far back as the overthrow of the Dutch power in America, for it seems to have been the king's determination to make them self supporting, which was more than their own share toward national greatness. The burden of debt was then very heavy on Great Britain, but it was chiefly created by the wars in which she engaged on her own side of the Atlantic. That portion, however, incurred by the wars on this continent she proposed to be paid by the colonies, notwithstanding the great increase of her domain through these wars. The time, however, arrived when tame submission to such measures could no longer be endured. The colonists themselves were heavily burdened with the expenses of the late French war, which resulted so favorably to England, yet almost before the smoke of the battles had cleared away the ministry began devising plans to tax them without asking their consent. In 1764 a proposition was submitted to the House of Commons for raising revenue in the colonies by the sale of stamps, and a bill to that effect was passed in March, 1765. It was bitterly denounced in the colonies, especially in New York, and the "Sons of Liberty" were organized in opposition to the obnoxious law. This organization was closely watched by Sir William, who, as he could not but be conscious of the rectitude of their motives, made no public opposition.

So great, indeed, was the popular indignation that parliament finally repealed the act, but this was done more to satisfy English tradesmen than to relieve a distressed people; and in its place were enacted other oppressive laws, one of which required the provinces to pay for supporting the British soldiery in New York city. The colonial assembly refused to comply with the demand, and parliament in retaliation annulled its legislative powers.

In 1767 a bill was passed by parliament imposing a duty on tea, glass, lead, paper and painter's colors imported by the colonies. This renewed the opposition, and in the following year the Massachusetts assembly addressed a circular letter to the sister colonies soliciting their assistance in defending the common liberties. More retaliation followed,

for the ministry was so wrathful that a letter was sent to each of the colonial governors forbidding their assemblies to correspond with Massachusetts. This mandate, however, was ignored, and the New York assembly accompanied its disobedience with declarations of inherent rights, together with denunciations of parliament, and the people sustained their representatives and returned most of them to the new assembly of 1769.

In 1770 Lord Dunmore succeeded Colden as governor, and brought with him royal approval of the act authorizing the issue of the colonial bills of credit. The duties had meanwhile been removed from all articles except tea, and colonial affairs for a time moved more smoothly, but in July 18, 1771, William Tryon became governor, and soon afterward the old difficulties were again renewed. The East India Company, conscious of the injustice in placing a duty on tea, tried to have the latter removed, but in vain, for the ministry still adhered to its boasted right to tax the colonies. This was soon followed by the destruction of the tea shipped to Boston, an event which has ever been known as the "Boston Tea Party." The ministry, whose rage was still more excited by the bold defiance, again retaliated by closing the port of Boston against all commerce—an outrage which awoke national indignation. Public meetings were held for the consideration of the common grievances, and among the plans suggested for mutual protection was the assembling of a Colonial Congress.

The "Continental Congress" (as it has ever been termed) was held at Philadelphia in September, 1774, and having adopted a declaration of rights, it added a petition to the king and an appeal to the people of Great Britain and Canada. The New York assembly was the only one that did not sanction these proceedings; instead of which it addressed a remonstrance to parliament, which was treated with disdain.¹

Let us now return to the county of Tryon and mark how these measures affected the people, and how the latter co-operated for the common weal. The reader must remember that Tryon county was then

¹On the 12th of January, 1775, at a cabinet council, it was declared that there was nothing in the proceedings of Congress that afforded any basis for an honorable reconciliation. It was therefore resolved to break off all commerce with the Americans; to protect the loyalists in the colonies, and to declare all others to be traitors and rebels.—Lossing.

a new creation named in honor of the governor, but young as it was it displayed a full degree of power. The enormous extent of the county led to its division into five districts—the first, beginning at the east, was the Mohawk district, embracing Fort Hunter, Caughnawaga, Johnstown and Kingsboro; next was Canajoharie district, embracing the present town of that name, with all the country south, including Cherry Valley and Harpersfield; third was Palatine district, north of the river, and including the settlement known by the same name, together with Stone Arabia and its immediate precinct; fourth was German Flats and Kingsland, and other western settlements.

Many of the people were zealous and earnest in the patriotic cause and were open in their approval of the proceedings of the Continental Congress, but on the other hand, their district contained Sir John Johnson, who, having succeeded to his father's military title (though never to his popularity and influence), warmly supported the British interests. In carrying out this policy Sir John was seconded by Guy Johnson and Daniel Claus, whose efforts were directed to the complete alienation of the Indians from the whig colonists, and also to bring into submission all of the settlers that might yield to their influence. This attempt, however, did not succeed to any considerable extent, though the immediate dependents and tenants on the Johnson estate were kept in subjection. The Mohawks of course were friendly to the crown, for they loved the father too well to oppose his son. Prominent among them were the notorious leaders, John and Walter Butler, and also the chief, Joseph Brant, all of whom became infamous from their bloody deeds during the revolution, and yet their pillage and slaughter was generally described to the instigations of the Johnsons.

Sir John and his fellow loyalists did not limit their schemes to Tryon county; they sent emissaries to the Six Nations and all other Indians within their reach, the object being to induce them to take up the hatchet against the Americans. In this effort they were too successful, for all except the Oneidas and a few other friendly Indians joined the British. The tory sentiment, however, which was so general in the Mohawk district, did not prevail throughout the country and this was especially true of the Germans in the Palatine district, whose patriotic zeal corresponded with the worth of the cause, and whose example had

an inspiring influence throughout the entire region. They were proof against the machinations of the Johnsons and the still more seductive influence of British gold.

One of the first mass-meetings of the Whigs in Tryon county was held at Caughnawaga soon after the opening of congress, its purpose being to express public approval of the policy pursued by the colonies, and to adopt such measures as might be required by the common weal. On this occasion the animosity of Sir John and his associates was fully manifested, for no sooner had the proceedings begun, than he appeared on the ground with Guy Johnson, Colonel Claus, Butler and a crew of retainers, armed with swords and firearms. Guy Johnson acted as speaker for the tories. Mounting a high stoop, he addressed the throng (which included about 300 patriots), setting forth the power of the crown and the weakness of the colonies. In the course of his speech he so incensed Jacob Sammons, son of the pioneer Sampson Sammons, that the latter retorted with the epithets of "liar and villain." Enraged at this response the tory colonel leaped down and struck the offender a blow which felled him to the ground. Recovering consciousness, young Sammons found one of Johnson's servants sitting astride his body, but the latter was quickly thrown off and the quarrel renewed. Jacob received further injuries, pistols were pointed to his breast, he was again knocked down, and finally was compelled to retire and depart for his father's house, the place being long known as Sammonsville.

The foregoing incident correctly illustrates the feelings of Sir John Johnson towards those who differed with his opinions and interests, but while his retainers in the Mohawk district numbered more than a thousand (including settlers and Indians) his influence never extended beyond them nor were his views respected in those parts of the country that were less subjected to his power.

The proceedings of the Continental Congress (held in Philadelphia in the spring of 1775) naturally surprised and even alarmed this boastful tory, and he determined to counteract their influence so far as possible, and at the same time to convince the crown of his unshaken allegiance. Accordingly, at a court held in Johnstown in the spring "a declaration was drawn up and circulated by the loyalists of Tryon

county, in which they avowed their opposition to the measures adopted by congress." Some debate and warm discussion followed this refractory measure, but the document was signed by most of the grand jury and nearly all the magistrates; a very natural thing indeed, for the county was fully controlled by the Johnson interest.

The influence of the Johnsons as has been mentioned was chiefly limited to the Mohawk district, and no sooner had their conduct become known throughout the country than meetings were held in other localities, notable in the Palatine and Canajoharie districts, upon which occasions the recent outrages were condemned, and the people were urged to firmness in the cause of liberty. The most alarming feature in the public situation was the fortification of Guy Park, whose proprietor had placed swivel guns on each side, and had furnished arms to the tenants and also to the neighboring Indians. More than this, he had stopped and searched two New Englanders, being suspicious that they were emissaries from Massachusetts to the Six Nations whose purpose was to make them allies to the American cause.

At this time the Johnson party was alarmed by the suspicion that a body of New Englanders was coming to effect their arrest, but however well founded their suspicions may have been, there was no such intention at that time on the part of the colonial authorities, and Guy Johnson's defense may have been due to the fear that he might be attacked by the indignant people of the valley, on account of his enmity to liberty. It should be said, however, in justice to Johnson, that he avowed that he was not so much in fear of the settlers in the valley as of assault from the New Englanders. This may be seen by an extract from one of his letters: "You have been misinformed as to the origin of the reports which obliged me to fortify my house, and stand on my defense. I had it from undoubted authority from Albany, and since confirmed by letters from one of the committee at Philadelphia, that a large body of men were coming to make me prisoner."

On June 2, 1775, there was held a general meeting of the committees of safety for several districts of Tryon county, at which was present for the first time the Mohawk committee, they having heretofore been restrained from taking part in the proceedings through fear of the Johnsons. The representatives present on this occasion were as follows:



James Sharahan

From the Palatine district, Isaac Paris, Christopher P. Yates, John Frey, Andrew Fink, Andrew Reeber, Peter Wagner, Daniel McDougall, Jacob Klock, George Ecker, jr., Harmanus Van Slyck, Christopher W. Fox, Anthony Van Veghten; Canajoharie district, Nicholas Herkimer, Ebenezer Cox, William Seeber, John Moore, Samuel Campbell, Samuel Clyde, Thomas Henry, John Pickert; Kingsland and German Flats district, Edward Wall, William Petry, John Petry, Augustin Hess, Frederick Ovendorf, George Wentz, Michael Ittig, Frederick Fox, George Herkimer, Duncan McDougal, Frederick Helmer, John Franck; Mohawk district, John Marlatt, John Bliven, Abraham Van Horne, Adam Fonda, Frederick Visscher, Sampson Sammons, William Schuyler, Volkert Vedder, James McMaster, Daniel Lane.

The principal object of this gathering was to cement more strongly the friendship of the settlers, and to discuss the best means to be adopted for the general welfare. At the same time a committee was chosen to prepare and send to Col. Guy Johnson a letter, setting forth the sentiment of the people as declared by the representatives, and requesting that he, as superintendent of Indian affairs, should use his best efforts to dissuade the Indians from taking up arms against the settlers, rumors then being in circulation that Johnson's retainers had been instigating them to attack. In reply to this letter Colonel Johnson most emphatically denied the charge, and expressed a desire to promote peace between the Indians and the inhabitants. He also called a second council of the Indians in the western part of the county, and, under pretense of there meeting them, moved his family from the Park to Crosby Manor, a little above German Flats. After remaining for a time in the upper part of the valley, he and his followers moved westward as far as Ontario, thence to Oswego, and eventually to Montreal, where he remained during the war, still acting as agent and superintendent, and whence using British gold as a stimulating influence, he sent out parties of Indians to fall upon the settlements in their usual bloody and merciless manner. The people of the valley, being aware of his departure, were both surprised and alarmed by the movement, but were powerless to prevent it, for they were comparatively unorganized and were destitute of either arms or ammunition.

In the party which accompanied Guy Johnson were John and Walter Butler and Joseph Brant, but the larger part of the loyalists remained

behind, placing themselves under the protection of Sir John, whose house and property now became their principal place of rendezvous. Between this party and the committees of safety there occurred incessant contentions. Among the loyalists was Alexander White, sheriff of Tryon county, who had made himself peculiarly obnoxious to the committees, and who was bitterly hated because of his prominence in the assault upon Jacob Sammons and in breaking up the meeting at Caughnawaga. The committee refused to recognize the authority of White as sheriff, and procured the election of John Frey in his stead. White left the country and went to Canada, but returning the next summer he was arrested, though afterward released on parole.

Between Col. Guy Johnson and Sir John, after the former had reached Canada, there was a continual correspondence, their letters being carried secretly by the Indians. Sir John was no less inimical than his brother-in-law, but to draw out clearly his sentiments and test his loyalty, the general committee addressed him a letter, requesting to know whether he would allow the inhabitants of "Johnstown and Kingsboro to form themselves into companies, according to the regulations of the Continental Congress, for the defense of our country's cause; and whether your honor would be ready to give personal assistance to the same purpose; also whether you pretend a prerogative to our county court-house and jail, and would hinder or interrupt the committee making use of the same to our want and service in the common cause."

To this letter Sir John replied: "That as to embodying his tenants, he never did or should forbid them; but they (the committee) might save themselves further trouble, as he knew his tenants would never consent." Concerning his own intentions, he said, that "sooner than lift his hand against the king, or sign any association articles, he would suffer his head to be cut off."

From the tenor of this reply there could be no mistaking the sentiments of the baronet. He claimed the ownership of the court-house and the jail until he should be reimbursed the sum of \$700, but said that he would not deny the use of the latter for the purpose for which it was intended. In regard to Sir John's asserted ownership of the county buildings it may be stated that the committee of congress had information that Sir William Johnson had conveyed the same to two persons

in trust for the county. The committee advised, however, that in view of the bad consequences that might follow if the buildings were attempted to be used for the confinement of the tories, the local committee should engage some other building for their purposes. Accordingly a private house was secured in which several tories were confined, while others were sent to Albany and Hartford.

During the winter of 1775-6, the people of the county were alarmed by the news that Sir John was making preparations to fortify Johnson Hall, and to arm his tenantry and concentrate his entire force in the vicinity; also that he was to garrison his forts with 300 well-armed Indians. There was much truth in this rumor, as the baronet did construct two forts, both of stone, for the defence of the Hall. One of these is still standing, while the other has been removed, as it impaired the beauty and convenience of the mansion, which still stands as securely and substantially as when built in 1763. A more complete description of the Hall and its surroundings will be found in the History of Fulton County.

The conduct of Sir John in prosecuting warlike measures, together with his often repeated treasonable utterances, at last attracted the attention of the provincial authorities, and they decided to bring them to a close. For this purpose, in January, 1776, General Schuyler, accompanied by General Ten Broek and Col. Varick, marched a military force into Tryon county, and at the same time General Herkimer called out the militia, and a combined demonstration was made, their rendezvous being Major Fonda's, where Fonda now stands. Negotiations were held with Sir John and continued two or three days, and the result was that he disarmed his tenants and surrendered himself a prisoner. He was taken to Fishkill, but soon after released on parole. This pledge of honor however, he violated, for in the following May he and his tenants left the Hall, proceeded stealthily by way of Sacandaga and took up his abode in Montreal, whither Col. Guy Johnson had preceded him. During the war that followed, Sir John commanded a troop of his faithful servants and tenants, which were known as "Johnson's Greens."

The flight of the last of the Johnson family removed from Tryon county the most dangerous element against which the struggling colon-

ists had to contend. Thenceforth, so far as local government was concerned, there was no dispute in old Tryon, for the whole people were united in the common cause; and if toryism occasionally manifested itself it was quickly subdued and even followed by arrest. Sir John's servant concealed much of his plate and treasure, but afterward recovered it. The vast Johnson estates, however, were confiscated and sold, and the county thus relieved of the possibility of a "manorial tenure."

Before concluding the present chapter it may be well to explain the necessity of appointing committees, and also the method by which they were formed, and the powers and duties entrusted to them.

Governor Tryon, in whose honor the county was named, was not at all in sympathy with the feelings and actions of the American colonies, and this is the reason why the New England colonies were so much more incensed at the conduct of the Johnsons than the New York authorities. In fact, between the executive of this province and the Johnsons there was the greatest harmony of thought and sentiment; both were the creations and the creatures of the king, and their policy was in subservience to the royal command.

It could not indeed be otherwise than that Tryon should remain faithful to his sovereign, for his office was the direct gift of the crown, and all that the Johnsons possessed came from the same source.

This allegiance to the king on the part of the governor and nearly all others in high office and influence in this province operated materially against the patriots, and forced them into such a position that they were compelled to act through a specially created and self constituted body called the General Committee of Safety, which in turn reported to and received instructions from the Continental Congress. In each of the counties of this province, the chief body was the Council of Safety, while in the several districts (towns or township as now known) were more local organizations, each called the Committee of Safety. The principal duty of the latter was to learn the condition of the district; to ascertain who were friendly to the crown and to watch their movements; also to learn whether the tory element was making any preparations for either aggressive or defensive operations, and the nature of such proceedings. In short the district committee was supposed to

know whatever was taking place in its territory and to report the facts to the Council of Safety. Each of the districts had one of these committees. It was the meeting held at Caughnawaga under the direction of the Mohawk district committee which was attacked and dispersed by the forces of Guy Johnson, of which mention has already been made in this chapter.

CHAPTER X.

Beginning of the Revolution — The British Influence — The Iroquois — Oneidas Remain Neutral — Organization of Militia in Tryon County — St. Leger Invades the Mohawk Valley — The Battle of Oriskany and Fort Schuyler — The British Defeated — The First Pension — Indian Depredations in 1778 — Campaigns of Sullivan and Clinton in 1779 — Sir John Johnson Invades the Valley in 1780 — Visits Johnstown and Secures his Plate — Details of his Raid.

THE flight of the last of the Johnsons from Tryon county restored partial tranquillity among its inhabitants, for while a few Tories still remained they were awed into silence by the determined action of the committees of safety. To such a class their property was a far greater sacrifice than the surrender of their principles.

In 1776 the war had become national instead of colonial and on the 4th day of July independence was formally declared. The long period of seven years of hardship, suffering and conflict which had begun in the battle of Lexington in April, 1775, was closely followed by the daring exploits of Allen and Arnold, both at Ticonderoga and on Lake Champlain, but it was some time before old Tryon county was made the scene of war. All through the Mohawk valley the greatest fear of the people arose from the probability of an Indian invasion, instigated by the Johnsons, and hence all possible preparations were proposed both to prevent a surprise and resist an attack.

The policy of the Americans had been to secure simply the neutrality of the Indians, but their success was limited to the Oneidas, while the British made undisguised efforts to unite them in close alliance with the royal cause. One of their officers exclaimed: "We must let loose the

savages upon the frontier of these scoundrels to inspire terror and make them submit." In the spring of 1777 Governor Tryon wrote to Germain that he was perfectly agreed as to the employment of Indians in the war. Brant, the great Mohawk chief who had been taken to England (1775-76), was shown marked favor by the government and was empowered to lead all who would follow him against the colonists. Lord Chatham, however, hurled his bitterest invective against this inhumanity, and when, in 1777, it was advocated in parliament, in such words as these: "It is perfectly justifiable to use all the means that God and nature have put in our hands," he indignantly exclaimed: "I know not what idea that lord may entertain of God and nature, but I know that such abominable principles are equally abhorrent to religion and humanity." Chatham's appeal however was in vain, and the secretary of war (Germain) gave special instructions to employ Indians in fighting republicans. A council had already been held in Montreal by the chiefs and warriors of the Iroquois, the Johnsons, Butlers and Brant taking part. Here the savages swore fealty to the king, this being the first act in the long catalogue of slaughter and devastation that followed.

For the emergency of war, during the early part of the summer of 1776, a company of rangers was formed among the people living in the Mohawk valley, and the command was given to Captain Robert McKean; but as this force was sent to another field it became necessary to organize another company, which was stationed in the valley under Captain Winn. In August Captain Getman's company of rangers was formed, and officered as follows: Captain, Christian Getman; lieutenants, Jacob Sammons and James Billington; corporals, William Kind, John Hulsor, Leonhart Kratzer; sergeants, Nehemiah Williams, Richard Coppernoll.

The Tryon county committee had charge of the organization of its militia, which was divided into four battalions and placed under command of General Nicholas Herkimer. The officers of the battalion were as follows: Canajoharie district, first battalion—Colonel, Nicholas Herkimer; lieutenant-colonel, Ebenezer Cox; major, Robert Wells; adjutant, Samuel Clyde. Palatine district, second battalion—Colonel, Jacob Klock; lieutenant colonel, Peter Wagner; major, Harmanus Van Slyck; adjutant, Anthony Van Vechten. Mohawk district, third

battalion — Colonel, Frederick Visscher; lieutenant-colonel, Adam Fonda; major, John Bliven; adjutant, Robert Yates. Kingsland and German Flats district, fourth battalion—Colonel, Hanyoost Herkimer; lieutenant-colonel, Peter Bellinger; major, Hanyoost Shoemaker; adjutant, John Demooth.

The organization of this military force was effected none too soon, and they were early called into service. Brant had appeared on the upper waters of the Susquehanna, and General Schuyler dispatched General Herkimer to communicate with him in order to learn his intentions, and if possible secure his promise of neutrality. In July Herkimer with 380 of his militia began his march, but the conference yielded no substantial result and as the season advanced the inhabitants of the Mohawk valley were thrown into a state of wild excitement by the news that a strong British force of regulars, Tories and Indians was assembled at Oswego with purpose to attack Fort Schuyler, after whose capture they were to march through the valley and co-operate with General Burgoyne and his army, which was then overpowering everything in the Champlain valley. Unfortunately, however, the people of Tryon county were so disconcerted by this alarm that no united action was taken. Preparation for defence was neglected, and even General Herkimer and the committee of safety did not escape the censure of the higher military authorities.

The British force at Oswego comprised 400 regulars, 600 Tories and 700 Indians, all commanded by General St. Leger with Sir John Johnson and Joseph Brant as allies, while the Americans under Herkimer numbered about 800. The latter were assembled at German Flats. Fort Schuyler, the object of British attack, was garrisoned by 750 men under Colonel Gansevoort, well supplied with ammunition except cartridges for the artillery. The advance guard of the British reached the outskirts of the fort on August 2, and made immediate preparation for an attack. On the 4th General Herkimer advanced from German Flats and on the 5th encamped near Oriskany. From this point he sent Adam Helmer and two others to inform Colonel Gansevoort of his approach, it being understood that the arrival of these messengers was to be announced by the firing of three cannon in quick succession. In the meantime St. Leger was apprised of the advance of Herkimer's militia,

and on the morning of the 6th he dispatched Brant with a large body of Indians, also Major Watts with a detachment of Johnson's Greens and Butler's rangers, to intercept them and thus prevent the relief of the garrison. General Herkimer waited long and patiently for the expected signal, but unfortunately his subordinates interpreted his delay as evidence of cowardice, and even openly charged it upon him, until goaded on by this foul accusation he ordered his impatient men to advance. The enemy, practicing their favorite mode of warfare, lured the patriot force into ambush and opened a murderous fire, but Herkimer's men, though shockingly surprised, went into action with all the nerve that could have been expected of the Tryon county soldiery, and such bravery against fearful odds was seldom witnessed on any battlefield during the Revolution. The militia, indeed, were now for the first time brought face to face with their worst hated enemies (Johnson and the tories), and they knew that they must conquer or shamefully perish, leaving their families the victims of outrage and death. The battle of Oriskany finally ended in the dearly bought defeat of the British, while at Fort Schuyler St. Leger's force fared no better, but the details of this action, however interesting, are not necessary to this work (as it was fought beyond the present limits of the county of which we write) and are therefore omitted. It may be added, however, that General Herkimer was seriously wounded and yet bravely refused to leave the field. He supported himself against a tree, seated on his saddle and directed the action of his men until victory was secured. He was then carried to his dwelling where he died ten days afterward, death being the result of an unskillful amputation.

The most important result of the victory at Oriskany was the fact that it prevented a union of St. Leger with Burgoyne. The British plan was that their three armies should fight their way to Albany, Burgoyne taking the Champlain route in expectation that Lord Howe would come from New York (by the Hudson river) and thus co-operate. St. Leger, on the other hand, was to devastate the Mohawk valley and then join his commander in the same manner. It was a grand military scheme, but like many others proved a failure, the first decisive blow being the defeat at Oriskany, thus saving Fort Schuyler. Next in importance was General Stark's great victory over Colonel Baum and his



— John McFarlane

Hessians at Bennington, on the 16th day of August. Each of these victories led to the final triumph, and the last scene in the bloody episode was Burgoyne's surrender to General Gates, at Stillwater on the 17th of the next October.

The patriot force in the battle of Oriskany, as has been stated, was from Tryon county, but unfortunately, no perfect roster of their names is in existence. They came from the various districts of the county, and the slaughter filled old Tryon with such grief that history was neglected in the general horror. A partial record, however, was preserved of the gallant band that fought in that fearful conflict, and we now add a copy in hope that some citizens of Montgomery may here discover an ancestor or kinsman. They were patriotic heroes of the highest rank and their names should be perpetuated in history, and this leads us again to express our regret at the loss of the roster. The following list, which is the best that can be given, contains the names of a large number of the force, also the place of residence, and also gives the killed, the wounded and those taken prisoners. The residences are given in many instances in towns erected since that day, but now used for convenience.

The killed were as follows: Brig.-Gen. Nicholas Herkimer, Danube; Col. Ebenezer Cox, Minden; Frederick Ayer, Schuyler; Nicholas Bell, Fall Hill; Joseph Bell, Fall Hill; Jacob Bowman, Canajoharie; Maj. John Bliven, Florida; Samuel Billington, Palatine; Lieut.-Col. Samuel Campbell, Cherry Valley; Robert Crouse, Minden; Andrew Cunningham, Amsterdam; Lieut. Robert Campbell, Cherry Valley; Capt. Henry Dievendorf, Minden; Capt. Andrew Dillenbeck, Palatine; Capt. John J. Davis, Mohawk; Martines Davis, Mohawk; Benjamin Davis, Mohawk; Capt. Thomas Davy, Springfield; John Dygert, Palatine; Maj. John Eisenlord, Palatine; Jacob Failing, Canajoharie; Lieut. Petrus Grant, Amsterdam; Nicholas Gray, Palatine; Capt. Frederick Helmer, German Flats; Lieut. Abel Hunt, Florida; Conrad Hawn, Herkimer; ——— Hiller, Fairfield; Jacob Klepsaddle, German Flats; Jacob Moyer, Fairfield; Jacob Markell, Springfield; William Merckley, Palatine; Isaac Paris, Palatine; Peter Paris (son of Isaac), Palatine; Lieut. Dederick Petry, German Flats; ——— Pettingill, Mohawk; Martines Putnam, Johnstown; Cornelius Phillips, Florida; John Petry, Herkimer; Lieut. Hanjost Petry, Herkimer; George Rays-

nor, Minden; Christian Sharrar, Herkimer; ——— Sharrar, Snyder's Bush; Maj. William Seeber, Minden; Capt. Jacob Seeber, Minden; Adolph Seeber, Minden; Henry Spencer, Joseph Snell, Jacob Snell, Frederick Snell, Sufferenus Snell, of Snell's Bush; John Snell, John Snell, jr., Jacob Snell, of Stone Arabia; Maj. Harmanus Van Slyke, Palatine; Peter Westerman, Minden; John Wohlever, Lawrence Wrenkle, Fort Herkimer.

Wounded: Capt. John Bigbread, Palatine; John Cook, Palatine; Peter Conover, Maj. John P. Frey, Palatine; Capt. Christopher W. Fox, Conrad Folts, Herkimer; Henry Failing, Canajoharie; Capt. Jacob Gardner, Fultonville; Samuel Gardner, Fultonville; Philip Nellis, Palatine; Adam Price, Canajoharie; Joseph Petry, Herkimer; Capt. Nicholas Rechtor, Ephratah; Jacob Radnour, Minden; William Shafer, Col. Frederick Visscher, Mohawk; ——— Van Antwerp, supposed Glen; George Wagner; George Walter, Palatine; Henry Zimmerman, St. Johnsville.

Taken prisoners: Lieut.-Col. Frederick Bellinger, German Flats; Maj. Blauvelt, Mohawk; Peter Ehle, Francis Lighthall, Ephratah; Garrit Walrath, Minden; Lieut. Henry Walrath, Herkimer; Henry Walrath, Herkimer; Surgeon Moses Younglove, Stone Arabia; Jacob Youker, Oppenheim.

In the battle: Abram Arndt, Minden; Jacob Alter, Minden; Col. Peter Bellinger, German Flats; Capt. George H. Bell, Fall Hill; Melchert Bauder, Palatine; John R. Boyer, Snyder's Bush; Adam Bellinger, John Bellinger, ——— Billington, Palatine; Peter Bargy, Frankfurt; Adj. Samuel Clyde, Cherry Valley; Capt. Abram Copeman, Canajoharie; Isaac Conover, Glen; Jacob, John and Adam Casler, Minden; Richard Coppernoll, Minden; William Cox, Minden; George Crouse, Minden; Jacob Clemens, Schuyler; Jacob Collier, Florida; John Dievendorf, Minden; Peter Dygert, Palatine; Hans Peter Duncel, Han Garrit Duncel, Han Nicholas Duncel, Minden; John Dockstader, German Flats; Capt. William Dygert, German Flats; Marx Demuth, Deerfield; Capt. Immanuel De Graff, Amsterdam; Peter S. and George Dygert, German Flats; Peter Dorn, Johnstown; Jacob Empie, Palatine; William Ehle, Palatine; John Eysler, Snyder's Bush; Capt. Christopher P. Fox, Peter Fox, Charles Fox, William Fox,

and Christopher Fox, Palatine ; Henry N. Failing, Canajoharie ; Valentine Fralick, Palatine ; Lieut.-Col. Adam Fonda, Fonda ; Peter Geortner, Minden ; Lieut. Samuel Gray, Herkimer ; Captain Graves, Captain Lawrence Gros, Minden ; Cyrus Gray, Florida ; John Adam Helmer, German Flats ; Lieut. John Joseph House, Minden ; Christian Huffnail, John Huyck, Palatine ; Marcus Hand, Florida ; William Hall, Glen ; Maj. Enos Klepsaddle, German Flats ; Conrad and Peter Kilts, Palatine ; Andrew, Jacob and Solomon Keller, Palatine ; Col. Jacob Klock, Palatine ; Lieut. Peter Loucks, Palatine ; George Lintner, Minden ; ——— Lighthall, Palatine ; Solomon Longshore, Canajoharie ; Henry Louns, Canajoharie ; Colonel Louis, a St. Regis Indian with the Oneidas. He held a lieutenant's commission, and was usually called "Colonel" ; Adam Miller, Glen ; Jelles, John P. and Henry Miller, Minden ; David Murray, Florida ; Lieut. David McMaster, Florida ; Jacob Myers, German Flats ; Joseph Myers, Herkimer ; Conrad Moyers, Danube ; ——— Moyers, ——— Moyers (brothers) ; Christian and John D. Nellis, Palatine ; Peter Nestell, Palatine ; John and Garret Newkirk, Florida ; Dr. William Petry, German Flats ; John Marks Petry, German Flats ; Ensign Richard Putnam, Johnstown ; Nicholas Pickard, Canajoharie ; Lieut. Abram D. Quackenbush, Glen ; John Rother, Minden ; Johannes Roof, Fort Stanwix ; John Roof, Marx Rasbach, Kingsland ; ——— Ritter, Fairfield ; Ensign John Jost Scholl, Ephratah ; Peter Sitts, Palatine ; Henrick Staring, Schuyler ; Thomas Shoemaker, Herkimer ; Rudolph Siebert, George Shults, Stone Arabia ; Henry Shaull, Herkimer ; ——— Shimmel, Herkimer ; Henry Sanders, Minden ; Sufferenus, James and John Seeber, Christian Schell, Schell's Bush ; George Smith, Palatine ; ——— Smith, father of Nicholas ; Lieut. Jeremiah Swarts, Mohawk ; John G. Sillenbeck, John Shults, Palatine ; Peter Sommers, Philip G. P. Stowits, Root ; Peter and George Snell, Stone Arabia ; Adam Thumb, St. Johnsville ; Henry Thompson, Glen ; Conrad Timmerman, St. Johnsville ; Nicholas Van Slyke, a fifer, Palatine ; Cornelius and Henry Van Horne, Florida ; ——— Van Slyke, Canajoharie ; Lieut.-Col. Peter Wagner, Palatine ; Lieut. Peter Wagner, John Wagner, sons of Col. Jacob Wagner, Minden ; John Wagner, Canajoharie ; Richard, Peter and Abram Wohlever, Jacob Weaver, German Flats ; Peter James Weaver, German

Flats; Michael Widrick, Schuyler; Jacob Walrath, Palatine; Robert Yates, Root; Nicholas Yerdon, Minden.

Of the representatives of the Snell family who took part in the battle of Oriskany, Jephtha R. Simms, in his *Schoharie and Border Wars*, says: "It has been said for many years that nine Snells went into the battle and that seven of that number remained there."

Henry Staring was the ancestor of Commodore John H. Starin, whose magnificent summer residence and grand estate adorns the beautiful elevation just outside the limits of Fultonville. Lieut.-Col. Adam Fonda was the ancestor of Henry A. Fonda, of Milton, Pa.

By reference to the above roll it will be seen that Isaac Paris, of Palatine, and his son were killed in the battle. On the 14th day of February, 1793, Catharine Paris, widow of Isaac, was voted a pension by a special act of the state legislature. It is believed to have been the first pension ever granted, either by state or federal authority. Catharine Paris passed her last days in Johnstown, being cherished by her son, Daniel Paris, a prominent lawyer, who was at one time a member of the state senate. He married Catharine Irving, sister of the author, and among his descendants is Mrs. S. V. R. Cruger, of New York. Mrs. Paris was buried in the old Johnstown cemetery, where her grave is still to be seen.

The pension act just mentioned is an interesting feature in Tryon county history, and may therefore be included in our record as follows: "Whereas it has been represented to the legislature that Isaac Paris, one of the militia of this state, was slain at the battle of Oriskany, by the enemy of the United States; and that Catharine Paris, the widow of the said Isaac, hath not intermarried with any other person since the decease of her said husband, and is now in indigent circumstances; In consideration thereof, be it enacted by the people of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly, that the Treasurer of this State shall, on or before the first day of May next, pay to the said Catharine Paris, or her order, the sum of thirty pounds; and on the first Tuesday in May, in every year afterward during her widowhood, the like sum of thirty pounds."

During the year 1778, although there were no historic battles in the Mohawk valley, the whole region was constantly alarmed by Indian

depredations. These petty invasions led Congress to hold a general conference with the Six Nations at Johnstown, for the purpose of bringing them to neutrality, and thus prevent further devastation. For this purpose a council was called at Johnstown between the 15th and 20th of February, but the Indians were so slow in attendance that it was not until March 9 that the proceedings began. General Schuyler and Volkert Douw, associated with James Duane (as special commissioner) conducted the council. The entire Six Nations, except the Senecas, were represented by chiefs and sachems, the Indian attendance being in all seven hundred. The commissioners opened the council, and one of the chiefs of each nation replied. The Oneidas and Tuscaroras expressed friendship, but while some others assumed a similar position their words were deceitful, and, in fact, during the course of the council there was concealed within convenient distance a number of British spies. The results of the council quieted for a time the public fears, but it was thought wise to adopt the suggestion of General La Fayette (who also was present), and build forts at various places along the frontier.

The Indians at this time were smarting under the chastisement they received at Oriskany and Fort Schuyler, hence cautious leaders of the Americans were not willing to trust them implicitly, notwithstanding their promises. It was well known that the Johnsons were desirous, and even determined to reoccupy the Mohawk valley and their deserted estates, and were only awaiting a favorable opportunity for an invasion. In the south part of Tryon county Brant was perpetrating his cruel and cowardly outrages, robbing, burning and slaughtering in the smaller frontier settlements. A much bolder movement, which occurred about the same time, was the reappearance of a body of tories, estimated at one hundred, who came into the Mohawk valley, took their movable property and families and escaped without molestation. They left Fort Hunter, proceeded to Fonda and thence journeyed northward to the Fish House. There they took eleven prisoners, among whom were Solomon Woodworth, Godfrey Shew and his three sons. They burned the buildings, among them the lodge built by Sir William Johnson in 1760, and then took boats and rowed down the Sacandaga and up the Hudson, thence crossed to Lake George and returned to Canada by the Champlain valley.

On the 2d of July of the same year, a strong party of Indians made a descent upon the settlement at Cobleskill, and two days later occurred the terrible massacre at Wyoming. In the same month also the settlement at Andrustown, six miles from German Flats, was plundered by Brant and his savage warriors. During the same fall, General Haldimand, governor-general of Canada, at the suggestion of Sir John Johnson, sent a party of forty or fifty men to Johnstown to recover certain valuable papers which were concealed near the former residence. In this party was one Helmer, who was injured and obliged for a time to remain in his father's house. He was discovered and arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to death at Johnstown. The others of the party, although they committed no depredations (at least there are none on record), escaped in safety to Canada, having come and returned by the short but unfrequented route of the Sacandaga, Lake George and Champlain Valley. Another fearful outrage occurred in November of the same year, when Brant and Butler, with 200 Tories and 500 Indians, fell upon the little settlement at Cherry Valley and ruthlessly slaughtered its inhabitants and plundered their dwellings.

The Indian depredations of 1778 were really the most important features in warfare during that year, but it was also noted for the alliance with France, which gave renewed confidence to the colonies and really insured the final victory. In November a large British force advanced from Canada to Ticonderoga and completed the devastation that had been begun on both sides of the lake; a foray, which, if justified by the laws of war, wrought but little benefit to the British, while it caused much unnecessary suffering.

The early part of 1779 brought to the inhabitants of Tryon county a repetition of the events of the preceding year. The Mohawk valley once more became the scene of scalping and plundering, and among the settlements first to suffer from Indian savages and cruelty were Stone Arabia and a small hamlet south of the Mohawk. In both instances men were either killed or carried into captivity. At the same time a band of Senecas made an attack upon Schoharie, with the scalping knife and torch, and compelled the settlers to flee for their lives. The Palatine committee of safety at last was compelled to ask protection from General Clinton, and the latter responded with a detachment of

troops which swept the savages from the valley and inflicted severe punishment wherever they were found. The Onondagas were among those upon whom Clinton's force had visited summary justice, and in revenge, they attacked Cobleskill, killed a number of its people and plundered the settlement. In the meantime Brant extended his predatory warfare into the Hudson river country, and massacred, plundered and burned wherever an opportunity offered.

These atrocities at last became so numerous that the authorities were thoroughly aroused and determined to draw upon the troops in service for a general expedition against the Indians. The plan of the campaign called for two forces, one under General Sullivan to march through the Susquehanna and Chemung valleys; and thence down Seneca Lake to destroy the Seneca villages, while the other force, under General Clinton, was to sweep through the Mohawk Valley and thence westward and punish all the hostile tribes. Both of these movements were entirely successful, and the result was that the Indians, especially the fierce Senecas, were driven to the protection of the British post at Fort Niagara. Their villages and growing crops were destroyed, and thereafter they were obliged to rely on the generosity of the British for their support.

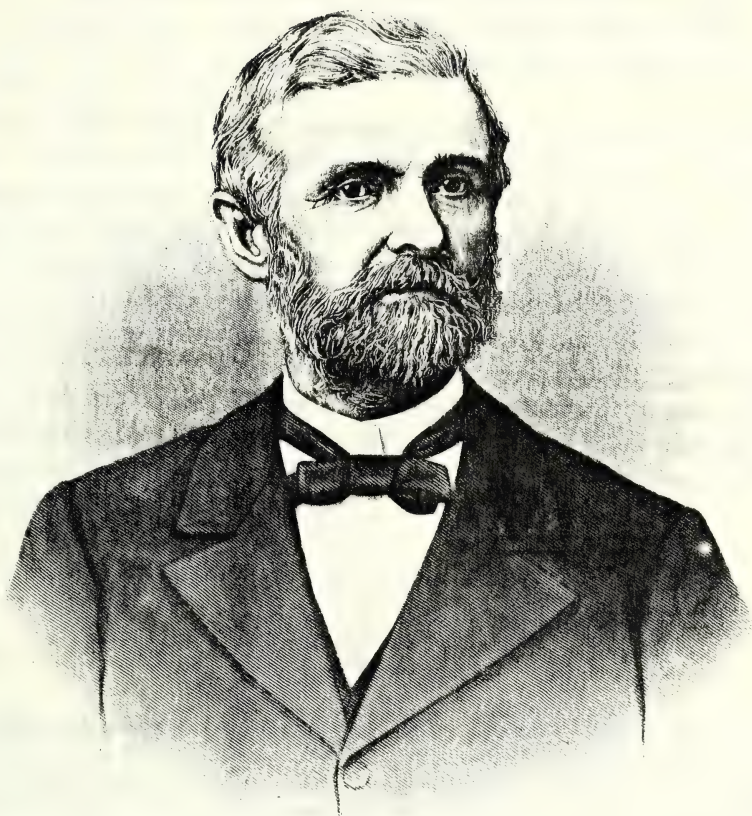
We now approach that most horrible episode in Tryon county history known as "Sir John Johnson's raid." In the spring of 1780 (May 21) Sir John came from Canada by Lake Champlain to Crown Point, at the head of a force of five hundred British troops, a detachment of his own Royal Greens, and about 200 Indians and Tories. From Crown Point he made his way through the forest to the Sacandaga river, and at midnight entered the north part of Johnstown so stealthily as to take the slumbering inhabitants unawares. He divided his force into two bodies in order that they might cover more territory, and then he enacted a series of atrocities from whose record history almost recoils. Families were aroused from slumber by the terrific war whoop, and men, women and children were brutally slaughtered, their dwellings burned and their property destroyed. Even the lapse of a century has hardly abated the horror which accompanied the memories of Sir John's infernal purpose and the Mohawk valley was fearfully ravaged by his barbarous horde. An important object in the cowardly invasion was the recovery of some

valuable plate which had been buried at the time of Sir John's flight in 1776. Since that time it had been faithfully guarded by one of his former slaves, who, with the aid of the soldiers, disinterred the silver and laid it at his master's feet, and it was divided among forty soldiers for transportation to Montreal. Such we say was the leading object in Sir John's invasion, but only a man of his malignity could have added the horrors which he wrought merely to gratify brutal revenge.

Having secured the plate they passed on through the village unobserved by the garrison that occupied the stockade around the jail and resumed their hellish task. The first family to feel their malice was that of Sampson Sammons, who with his three sons, Jacob, Frederick and Thomas, were made prisoners. No doubt they were worth more alive than dead. The dwelling was plundered, after which the invaders joined the eastern division at the north of the Cayadutta.

The other force, led, as it was believed, by two notorious tory brothers named Brown, passed at once through Johnstown to the vicinity of Tribes Hill, and thence all through the river country, both east and west of Caughnawaga, they wreaked vengeance on the unprotected inhabitants. Ludowick Putnam and his son were first butchered, their property stolen or destroyed, but the females of the family escaped. Amasa Stevens, son-in-law of Putnam, was also killed, but his wife also escaped. Garrett Putnam was an intended victim, but had recently moved away after renting his house to two tories. The house of Henry Hanson was likewise plundered and its owner murdered. In fact the property of every patriot in the locality was robbed or destroyed, and only that belonging to the tories was spared. The church and parsonage at Caughnawaga were also unmolested, being prominent features in the estate of Sir William Johnson. At the latter place Douw Fonda was killed and scalped; and it was said that he was one of the nine aged men, four of whom were more than eighty years old, who were slain during Sir John's raid. His descendants are still prominent citizens of the valley and tradition preserves the spot where he was so cruelly massacred.

Returning from the Mohawk valley the raiders again visited the Sammons place and took away seven horses. The Hall was also revisited, Sir John remaining there several hours and regaining possession of



Gavilunet Blood

about twenty of his former slaves who had remained behind at the time of his flight, and who now accompanied him to Canada. Among these was the trusted and faithful William, who had concealed the plate. He had previously been in the service of Jacob Sammons (who had rented the estate and Hall from the commissioners) but he would never disclose the place of concealment.

At the time of this bloody invasion Governor Clinton was at Kingston. He hastened to Albany, collected such militia as were in his command and marched to Lake George to intercept Sir John. Colonel Van Schaick also, with 700 men (part being of the Mohawk valley militia) followed the invaders by the way of Johnstown to cut off their retreat by the Oswego route. The governor descended Lake George to Ticonderoga, where he was joined by a body of militia, but all these efforts to cut off Sir John's retreat were ineffectual and the monster escaped with his horde, taking their boats, probably at Crown Point, whence they proceeded down the lake to St. John. Their captives (including the brothers Jacob and Frederick Sammons) were thence transferred to the fort at Chambly.

CHAPTER XI.

Additional Depredations in the Mohawk Valley — Sir John Johnson again Invades the Region — The Battle at Stone Arabia — Van Rensselaer's Cowardly Conduct — Condition of the Inhabitants after the Raid — Governor Clinton sends Colonel Willett to Protect the Valley — Invasion by Brant and Butler — Defeat of the latter by Willett's Troops — Battle at Johnstown — The Enemy Routed — Death of Walter Butler — End of Hostilities in the Mohawk Valley.

THE devastation and bloodshed that had thus far marked the track of war throughout the states was now approaching an end, but in the autumn of 1780, and simultaneous with the movement of Sir John Johnson in the Mohawk country, the enemy actively engaged against the settlements north of Albany, and also upon the upper Connecticut river. In order to create a diversion in favor of Sir John, Major Carleton came up the lake with a large fleet, and more than 1,000 men.

This invasion was secretly conducted and reached Fort Anne and Fort George undiscovered, both posts being captured, with 120 prisoners. Stories of cruelty were told about Carleton's troops, but were positively denied by that officer. It is certain, however, that destruction and outrage followed the invaders as far as the country offered anything that could gratify this purpose, except on the eastern shores of the lake. There the inhabitants were fortunately exempted from attack through the remarkable statesmanship of Generals Ethan and Ira Allen and Governor Chittenden. More than that, by their efforts there was kept inactive in Canada a British army of nearly 10,000 effective men. The inter-communications which occurred were called the Haldiman correspondence, or negotiations with Canada, and although conducted in entire good faith on the part of the astute Vermonters, the latter were nevertheless charged by the authorities of New York with treasonable intent; but without regard to public opinion on that point, the patriotism of the men connected with it can never be doubted nor the value of their services be diminished.

Returning to the history of old Tryon, it may be said that while other portions of the country were now comparatively free from the horrors of war, the Mohawk valley was destined to be the scene of British outrages for many months to come. In the latter part of 1780 Sir John Johnson made a second invasion of the valley, with the evident determination to destroy every vestige of property, and even the lives of the inhabitants. After his first raid Governor Clinton ordered Colonel Ganesvoort to Fort Plain with the militia of the county in order to protect the locality, and also guard the supplies in store at Fort Schuyler. At the same time Brant, with his blood-thirsty savages, was hovering in the region, ready to fall upon any unprotected settlement and thus increase that long record of murder which bore testimony in the highest of tribunals against him and his instigators. Being informed by the Tories of the valley that a patriot force was about to defend Fort Plain, Brant made a sudden descent upon Canajoharie and the fort itself, burning buildings and destroying property without the restraint of mercy, and Ganesvoort was so sluggish in his movements that no hand was raised to defend either life or property from the Indian invader.

Soon after this Sir John Johnson again repeated his vengeance upon the already distressed people of the country. In his command were the now notorious Greens, the German Yagers, Butler's two hundred rangers, a company of British regulars and a body of Indians under Brant and the still more dreaded Seneca chief, Cornplanter. During the early part of this foray Sir John was nowhere opposed by any considerable force, and was thus at full liberty to pillage, burn and destroy everything except the property of the tories. This naturally led to retaliation, and after he had passed up the Mohawk the ruined patriots revenged themselves by destroying in turn the buildings and harvested crops of the British sympathizers. On the 18th of October Sir John camped at the "Nose," but the next morning sent a detachment against Stone Arabia (then called Fort Paris), following soon afterward with his main force. General Van Rensselaer was sent to oppose the invaders, having in his command the Albany militia, and reached Caughnawaga on the 18th. Learning that Fort Plain was to be attacked, Colonel Brown was sent to engage the enemy in front, while Van Rensselaer himself was to make a diversion and attack them from another quarter; but whether from cowardice or sympathy for the British, he changed his course and left Brown without support; the result was the defeat and death of the gallant colonel, while the enemy were still further allowed to ravage the country. Van Rensselaer displayed even greater cowardice, for later on, having been reinforced by Captain McKean's company and about eighty Oneida braves, so that his troops outnumbered the enemy, he again refrained from attack. At last he was openly charged with toryism by an Oneida chief, which, with the importunities of his subordinate officers, forced him to prepare for battle, and after a severe engagement the British were routed, but the cowardly American commander refused to follow up his victory, notwithstanding the entreaties of his men. He fell back and encamped, while some of the volunteers and Oneidas pursued the British and captured a cannon and a number of prisoners, but by the next morning the enemy had retreated beyond successful pursuit.

The outrages committed by the British and their savage allies in the Mohawk valley during the several years ending with the close of 1780, had left the inhabitants in a most deplorable condition. Their houses

and other buildings were now burned to the ground, their crops had been completely destroyed, and they were obliged to look for shelter and support to the people more fortunate than themselves, who occupied the larger and more protected settlements in the eastern part of the valley. On the 20th of December, 1780, the supervisors of Tryon county reported to the legislature the condition in which their people were left at that time, and from this sad report it appeared that seven hundred buildings had been burned; six hundred and thirteen persons had gone over to the enemy; three hundred and forty-four families had abandoned their homes and property; one hundred and seventy-seven lives had been lost; one hundred and twenty-one persons had been carried into captivity, while one thousand farms in the country were without care or cultivation.

Such a lamentable state of affairs could not but move the authorities to some action in behalf of the distressed people, but even then Brant was skulking in the vicinity, only awaiting an opportunity to attack some defenceless settlement, and the only remedy lay in levying a sufficient armed force to guarantee safety to the people so that they might return to their homes. The militia was greatly reduced in numbers and efficiency, and the partial destruction of Fort Schuyler by fire and flood left the whole valley open to the enemy. In this extremity Governor Clinton determined to detach a part of his own army for the defence of the western frontier, and accordingly Colonel Willett was sent with a body of troops to protect the region from an invasion. Willett collected together about one hundred militia men, added to these his state troops, and stationed his force at Fort Plain, but was soon called into action, being on July 9 summoned to repel an invasion at Currytown, about three miles from Sprakers. The marauders were Tories and Indians led by one Doxtader, who attacked the settlement, destroyed much property, and made off with nine prisoners. Willett at once marched to the scene of danger, but unlike his timid predecessor, deployed his men so as to draw the British into an ambuscade, and as a result the latter were terribly beaten and routed. In this sharp fight the efforts of Colonel Willett were materially aided by the zeal and bravery of Lieut. Jacob Sammons and Captain McKean.

The vigilance of Willett and his men put a check upon the ravages of the Tories and the Indians, but did not entirely end them, as marauding

parties still continued petty depredations. The tories were, as Willett found, more dreaded than the Indians, for they moved so covertly and with such well laid plans and united action as to render them dangerous in the extreme. During the latter part of October, a party of these tories, together with a few Indians under Ross and Butler, again entered the valley and ravaged the country from Currytown to Warrensbush and Fort Hunter. They then changed their course towards Johnstown, having increased their force to about one thousand, composed of British regulars as well as tories and Indians. Willett pursued with only about four hundred and sixteen men, but he determined to give them a battle regardless of the disparity of numbers. To do this successfully, the intrepid commander divided his force into two parts, and with his main body under his own command he attacked the enemy in front, while about sixty men under Colonel Rowley (a Massachusetts officer) made a detour in order to attack them in the rear. On the level land opposite Johnson Hall, where the orchard now stands, the contending forces first met. Willett's men fought with determination, but being overpowered by the superior number of the enemy, he was compelled to fall back to the village. This was a dangerous movement but he was saved from what might have been a rout by Rowley's little troop which fell unexpectedly upon the British rear with such valor as to create a diversion. The British were obliged to turn and act on the defensive, upon which Willett rallied his men and renewed the battle. Although assailed both in front and rear the invaders kept up their fight until night, when weary and suffering severely in losses, they wavered and broke into precipitate flight to the woods. This was the last battle fought in Tryon county, and really was the last in the entire record of the Revolution, and in this final conflict the faithful Tryon county militia had the satisfaction of inflicting satisfactory chastisement on their tory enemies. In the battle of Johnstown the loss in killed was about forty on each side, but the Americans made prisoners of fifty of the enemy and those who escaped did not halt until they had put a long distance between themselves and their conquerers.

Early on the morning of the 26th (the day following the Johnstown battle) Colonel Willett started in pursuit of the foe. He marched as rapidly as possible to Stone Arabia, and believing the fugitives had

gone toward Oneida lake, sent thither a detachment to destroy their boats, while he halted expecting a possible attack, but as it did not take place he resumed his march. But his men instead of taking the lake route turned northward to Canada Creek, where Willett overtook them. He fell on their rear and punished them severely, taking many prisoners and killing others. Butler crossed the creek and made an attempt to rally his men, but in doing so was discovered by an Oneida chief, who shot him. The fall of their leader so dismayed the British and Indians that they fled in confusion and sought shelter wherever it offered. The Oneidas now crossed the creek and dispatched the famous Butler as he lay prostrate on the ground. Colonel Willett having now delivered the valley from terror returned in triumph to Fort Dayton, having lost only one of his men since the Johnstown battle.

Although the close of the year 1781, found the heavy operations of war practically at an end, the peace of the people living in the Mohawk valley was not fully assured. An occasional band of marauding Indians would unexpectedly appear, commit some outrage and then quickly depart to safe refuge. One of these invasions took place during the summer of 1782, when a body of seven savages appeared near Johnstown and killed Henry Stoner, a noted settler, and also made prisoners of his nephew, Michael Reid, and a man named Palmatier. The Indians also burned the Stoner buildings. This act of outrage was afterward fearfully avenged by the noted Nicholas Stoner, son of the murdered pioneer. Andrew Bowman, a tory living near Johnstown, bore a part in the above mentioned outrage for which he was afterward made to suffer a suitable punishment from the indignant patriots of the town.

CHAPTER XII.

Condition of the Mohawk Valley at the close of the Revolution — Mohawk Indians Forfeit their Lands to the State — Return of the Tories — Their Treatment by the Mohawk Committee — Settlement of the Region by New Englanders — Tryon County Changed to Montgomery — First County Officers — County Buildings — Counties Formed from Montgomery.

THE close of the revolutionary war and the return of peace marked a new era in the history of the Mohawk valley. Returning to their deserted lands and property, the patriot settlers found little else than ruin and desolation; their buildings had been burned and the harvested and growing crops almost wholly destroyed. Their cattle, too, had been driven off by the recent invaders, and they were obliged to begin life anew. They had, however, this consolation that they no longer feared the wily Indian, nor the malignant tory, for the fortunes of war had driven them from the country.

The Mohawk Indians by their alliance to the British, shared the ill-fate of a fallen power, and forfeited whatever claim that they may have had to the lands which they formerly occupied, and while, as a rule, the Six Nations were kindly treated by both the general and state governments, the hostility of the Mohawks had been such as to cancel their claims to the territory of the valley. There is not, indeed, any reliable proof that this tribe ever made a demand for their lands, and the shattered remnant of a once powerful nation accepted the offer made by Great Britain of a home in Canada. With the tories who had cast in their lot with the British, the case appears to have been quite different, for almost immediately after the restoration of peace they returned to their former homes and proclaimed ownership, insisting on legal title. Fortunately, however, and justly also, they were not successful for the property of the defeated foe by the rules of war became forfeited to the conquerors.

We cannot but notice that the effrontery of the tory in peace was only equalled by his barbarity in war, and hence, as has been stated,

after the struggle was ended he loudly asserted his rights to his former estate. So annoying, indeed, did this false but persistent assertion of right become that the people of the Mohawk district were under the necessity of taking public action in the matter, and therefore held a meeting on May 9, 1793, on which occasion they expressed themselves in this manner: "Resolved, unanimously, that all those who have gone off to the enemy or have been banished by any law of this state, or those who we shall find tarried as spies or tools of the enemy, and encouraged or harbored those who went away, shall not live in this district or any pretense whatever; and as for those who have washed their faces from Indian paint and their hands from the innocent blood of our dear ones, and have returned, either openly or covertly, we hereby warn them to leave this district before the 20th of June next, or they may expect to feel the first resentment of an injured and determined people.

"We likewise unanimously desire our brethren in the other districts in this county to join with us to instruct our representatives not to consent to the repealing of any law made for the safety of the state against treason, or confiscation of traitors' estates or to passing any new acts for the return or restitution of tories. By order of the meeting. Josiah Throop, chairman."

In and about the county seat of Tryon county was perhaps a greater number of tories than in any other locality in the entire region. Johnstown was founded, and virtually owned by Sir William Johnson and through his efforts the local population was mainly acquired. Upon his death, the property and estate descended to his son (Sir John), whose conduct during the war was of so base a character as to justify a far more detestable expression than merely "tory." He was a blood-thirsty and a relentless enemy, combining the worst elements of toryism with the inhuman methods of war only resorted to by savages. He never came back to Johnstown to claim his vast and valuable estate, which was confiscated and sold by the state. Sir John himself remained in Canada and received from the crown an appointment as superintendent and inspector of Indian affairs in British North America. He died in Montreal January 4, 1830.

Among Sir John's dependents were the tenants settled on his lands in and about Johnstown, and the Scotch Highlanders who dwelt upon



W. H. C. G. W. L.

W. H. C. G. W. L.

the Kingsboro tract (then a part of the Mohawk district), also a part of Caughnawaga. The tenantry and Scotchmen were provided with firearms by the proprietor, and of course departed with him to Canada, thenceforth forming a part of the "Royal Greens" regiment. Whatever claim to the lands of the Mohawk region they may have acquired was likewise forfeited, and they never returned.

Of the German settlers in the valley, however, it must in justice be said that they were generally loyal to the colonies, and although a few—and only a few—may have been misled by the influence of the arbitrary baronet and his associates, this was the exception, not the rule.

During the course of the war, this portion of the state became known to a class of people who had no former means of judging of its beauty and fertility. The continual passage of New England troops through the valley of the Mohawk made them acquainted with its desirability as a place of abode, and, when peace was restored, they were not slow to avail themselves of the opportunity of possessing the lands. They came and made miscellaneous settlements as the tracts were offered for sale, and thus the territory came under the control of Yankees, determined, energetic and upright men with wives and mothers of corresponding character, and it was to this class of people that Montgomery and Fulton counties chiefly owed much of their later development and improvement.

There was one name, however, in this beautiful region that was the occasion of much annoyance to the progressive inhabitants, being indeed in the highest degree offensive, and that was the name by which this county was then called. Governor William Tryon first became executive of the province of New York by appointment, July 9, 1771, and was reappointed June 28, 1775, and it was in his honor that the newly formed county received its name. Tryon's toryism was as pronounced and offensive as that of any British subject in the land. His official power was wholly devoted to the crown, and he was even implicated in a plot to seize General Washington and deliver him to the British. It was not, therefore, in the least surprising that the settlers of the Mohawk valley should object to so odious a name.

Tryon county was created from the original county of Albany by act of the Provincial Assembly, March 12, 1772, and Johnstown was desig-

nated as its capital. The officers were as follows: Guy Johnson, first judge; John Butler and Peter Conyne, judges; Sir John Johnson, Daniel Claus, Jelles Fonda and John Wells, assistant judges. The first county court was organized September 8, 1772. The court-house and jail of Tryon county were erected in 1772 by Sir William Johnson, and on his own land. Both of these buildings are still in use, and having been occasionally repaired, are still in good condition and may last another century. The former, which fully retains its original appearance, stands on the northwest corner of William and Main streets. The jail, a spacious stone edifice, stands in the southeast corner of the village on the highest part of South Perry street.

At the outbreak of the war these buildings were claimed by Sir John Johnson as a part of his estate; and he therefore refused the county Committee of Safety permission to use them for the confinement of those who were considered inimical to the American cause. This claim, however, was denied by the provisional congress, which held that Sir William Johnson had, some time before his death, conveyed them "to two gentlemen, in trust" for the use of the county. The committee did not at that time press its demand, but after the departure of Sir John and his retainers, the local authorities seized all the property and used it according to their needs. The jail was fortified and thus became a place of defence in addition to the purpose for which it was originally intended.

On the 2d of April, 1784, the legislature passed an act changing the name from Tryon to Montgomery county, adopting the latter in honor of Gen. Richard Montgomery, who was killed at the storming of Quebec, December 31, 1776. The statement has been made in one of our earlier chapters (and its accuracy has never been doubted) that Tryon county comprised all that part of the province of New York west of the Delaware river, and also west of a line extending north through Schoharie (as well as all along the east lines of the present counties of Montgomery, Fulton, and Hamilton, and continuing in a straight line to Canada. On the 7th of March, 1788, the legislature passed an act by which the boundary lines of the several counties of the state were described more accurately and in detail; and this act declared Montgomery county to contain all that part of the state west of the counties

of Ulster, Albany, Washington and Clinton, as they were then constituted. On the other hand, the "Civil List of the State of New York," published in 1866, says: "Tryon county was erected in 1772, and comprised the country west of a north and south line extending from St. Regis to the west bounds of the township of Schenectady; thence running irregularly southwest to the head of the Mohawk branch of the Delaware, and along the same to the southeast bounds of the present county of Broome; thence in a northwesterly direction to Fort Bull, on Wood creek, near the present city of Rome; all west of the last mentioned line being Indian territory." This statement, if correct, limits Tryon county to a comparatively small area; but the question, which statement is correct, is not one for the writer to decide. The weight of authority, however, strongly inclines us to the conviction that Tryon (succeeded by Montgomery) included all that part of the state west of the east line above mentioned; while all authorities substantially agree upon its east boundary.

It is interesting in the present connection to note the several counties of the state which have been in whole or in part formed from the territory originally of old Tryon or Montgomery county; the list, with date of erection, being as follows: Ontario, January 27, 1789; Herkimer, February 16, 1791; Otsego, February 16, 1791; Tioga, February 16, 1791; Onondaga, March 5, 1794; Schoharie (one-half), April 6, 1795; Steuben, March 18, 1796; Delaware (part only), March 1, 1797; Chenango, March 15, 1798; Oneida, March 15, 1798; Cayuga, March 8, 1799; St. Lawrence (part only), March 3, 1802; Genesee, March 30, 1802; Seneca, March 24, 1804; Jefferson, March 28, 1805; Lewis, March 28, 1805; Madison, March 21, 1806; Broome, March 28, 1806; Alleghany, April 7, 1806; Cattaraugus, March 11, 1808; Chautauqua, March 11, 1808; Niagara, March 11, 1808; Cortland, April 8, 1808; Oswego, March 1, 1816; Hamilton, April 12, 1816; Tompkins, April 7, 1817; Livingston, February 23, 1821; Monroe, February 23, 1821; Erie, April 2, 1821; Yates, February 5, 1823; Wayne, April 11, 1823; Orleans, November 12, 1824; Chemung, March 29, 1836; Fulton, April 18, 1838; Wyoming, May 14, 1841; Schuyler, April 17, 1854.

CHAPTER XIII.

Situation in the Mohawk Valley Prior to the War — Its Peace and Prosperity — Events Preceding the War — Causes Leading to it — British Aggressions — American Retaliations — Declaration of War — Militia Called into Service — Regiments Formed in the Valley — Their Services — The Return of Peace.

FOR more than a quarter of a century following the close of the revolution, nothing occurred to interrupt or retard the progress of settlement and development in the Mohawk valley. During this period indeed the latter was favored in an unusual degree. The New England pioneers were a hardy and patriotic class, and under their energetic efforts lands were cleared and the forests gave place to farms of rare fertility, thus developing the agricultural resources, at least to an extent which supplied domestic requirements.

While speaking of the New Englanders, however, we are not to be misunderstood as giving this class undue prominence. They bore their share in general improvement, but only extended the settlement of the original pioneers. The sturdy Dutch and equally sturdy Germans were here long in advance of the Yankees, but they found homes near the Mohawk, while in the territory now included in Montgomery county the New England colonies made their successful efforts. Here, too, however, soon appeared the German element, the descendants of the Palatines, and others of the same nation imbued with the same spirit of enterprise and progress. During the period referred to, this region acquired its greatest comparative growth in population, and with this came power to sustain the nation during peril. Hence when the first murmurings of another war with Great Britain were heard, this part of the state were well prepared to endure its hardships and its taxation and the part that it bore in the great conflict must be made the subject of special mention. In one respect at least the people of this locality were favored during the course of the war of 1812-15. It was that they had not to defend their home against hostile Indians, and in the war-like preparations which were made in Montgomery county no force was re-

quired to protect the rapidly increasing settlement. Let us now, however, briefly refer to the causes which led to the war, after which we shall mention the service which the soldiers of this county endured.

During the five years immediately preceding the war of 1812; the whole country was in a state of nominal peace, but still there was gathering in the political horizon a dark cloud which increased until it boded another foreign war. During the revolution, America contended for independence and won that precious boom; in 1812 she fought to maintain that independence on which British aggression had insolently trespassed.

The United States had always honorably observed the provisions of the treaty made with Great Britain at the close of the Revolution. There had been maintained, too, a strict neutrality during the progress of the Napoleonic war when, perhaps, every consideration of gratitude should have induced an alliance against the mother country. For several years the aggressive acts of the British had been a subject of anxiety and regret to all Americans and indeed had created bitter indignation. The embargo laid by congress upon our shipping (as a means of safety) was found so injurious to commercial interests that it was repealed, and the non-intercourse act was passed in its stead. In April, 1809, the British ambassador in Washington opened negotiations for the adjustment of existing difficulties, and consented to a withdrawal of the obnoxious British "orders in council," so far as they affected the United States, on condition that the non-intercourse act be repealed; this was agreed upon and the president issued a proclamation announcing that on the 10th of June, trade with Great Britain might be resumed. The British government, however, refused to ratify the proceedings and the minister was recalled, whereupon the president revoked his proclamation, and the non-intercourse act went into operation. The most odious of all British aggressions was the claim made of "right to search," in pursuance of which British cruisers stopped American vessels on the ocean and seized such of their crews as they suspected to be subjects of the king, forcing them into their own service. This claim led to outrages to which no American could submit, and the only choice left to the nation was war or disgraceful humiliation.

On the 12th of June, 1812, President Madison sent a confidential message to congress, in which he recapitulated the long list of British

aggressions and declared it the duty of congress to consider whether the American people should longer passively submit; but at the same time he cautioned the house to avoid entanglements with other powers that then were hostile to Britain.

The result of the message and the deliberation of congress was a formal declaration of war on the 19th of June, 1812, but the measure was not unanimously sustained or even approved in all parts of the Middle and New England States. The opponents held that the country was not prepared for war and asked for further negotiations. They also met the denunciations of the ruling party against the British with bitter attacks upon Napoleon, and accused Madison with favoring this bloody tyrant. The war party was led by Henry Clay and the opposition by John Randolph, both men of ability and, in fact, the two giants of congress.

A detail of the events of the war is not needed in these pages. The results of the struggle against renewed oppression are written in the conflicts of Lake Erie, the repulse of the invaders on the Delaware, the painful and humiliating scenes of the Chesapeake, the invasion of New York and the attempt to control the Hudson river and Lake Champlain. The story is further told in the brilliant victory at Plattsburg, the capture of Niagara and Oswego, the battles at Black Rock, Lundy's Lane, Sacketts Harbor, closing with the glorious defence of New Orleans. Above all, however, were the masterly exploits of our navy whose victories over the British cruisers gave the enemy the most serious view of American prowess. Peace, however, came at last and the treaty was ratified February 15, 1815.

The outbreak of the war of 1812 awoke a tremendous impulse throughout this region of the country, for many of the settlers had seen service in the Revolution, and their sons were now enrolled in the militia. The same martial spirit which came with the pioneers was manifested in later years on the old fashioned "general training" when the farmer, the mechanic and the professional man hied to the annual "muster" for a season of jollification as well as for military discipline.

In February, 1812, in view of approaching war, congress passed a law to organize an army of twenty-five thousand men, and shortly afterwards Daniel D. Tompkins, governor of the state, addressed the legis-

lature advising full preparation for the contest. In April following, 100,000 of the nation's enrolled militia were called upon to organize for service, the quota of New York being 13,500 men, which were organized in two divisions and eight brigades. The fourth brigade comprised the 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th regiments, the members of which were from the Mohawk valley. This brigade was under command of General Richard Dodge, then a resident of Johnstown.

The services of the militia from this locality were important in character, though not specially severe. One of the brigades was stationed at Sacketts Harbor where its duty was to guard the supplies stored there, and as well defend that post. General Dodge made this his headquarters September 21, 1812. The post was afterwards, May 24, 1813, attacked by the British, but they were repulsed. Nevertheless, in the fear that the supplies might fall into the hands of the enemy, they were destroyed before the repulse was effected. The thirteenth regiment was in the battle at Queenstown Heights, but the principal service performed by it was guarding the frontier, and not only against the possibilities of invasion, but as well to prevent smuggling, which so often impaired our national revenue.

CHAPTER XIV.

County Organizations — Tryon and Montgomery Counties Briefly Reviewed — The County Seat Moved to Fonda — Dissatisfaction in the Northern Towns — Fulton County Created — Montgomery County Civil List.

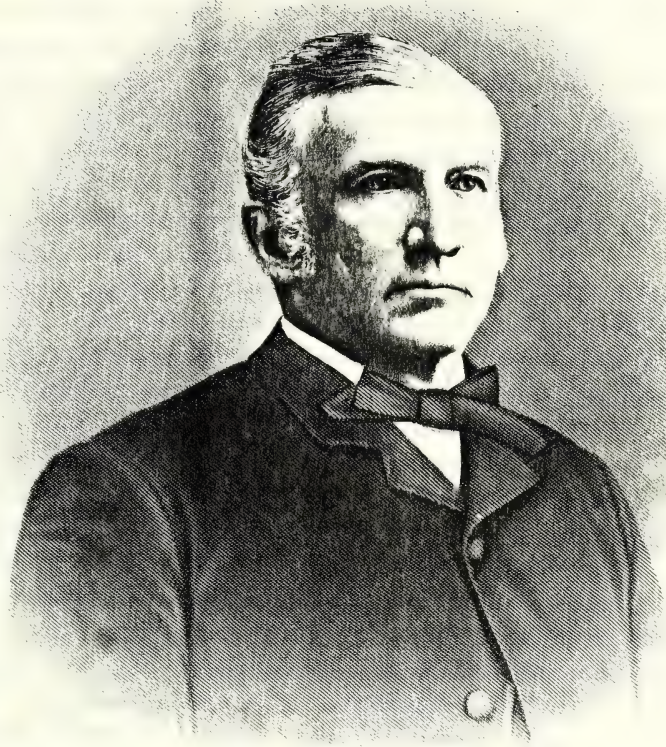
AS has been stated in our preceding chapters, Tryon county was created from the original county of Albany in 1772, and the seat of justice was immediately located at Johnstown. The public buildings, as has been previously mentioned, were erected by Sir William Johnson, the founder of the village that still bears his name, and in fact the founder of Tryon county. After his death and during the early years of the revolution, Sir John Johnson, as has also been mentioned, claimed ownership, as heir of his father, and denied the use of the court-house

and jail for the confinement of tories, this use being demanded by the patriotic committees. The government, on the other hand, claimed that Sir William had conveyed the property to two persons in trust for the people of Tryon county. This question, however, was finally settled by the flight of Sir John, and his entire estate was then confiscated and sold, the county buildings being thenceforth public property. Tryon county, as has been mentioned, received its name in honor of William Tryon, the governor of the province and a base tool in the royal service. He was wholly devoted to the British interests, and did everything in his power to defeat the cause of liberty. Hence it was only natural that his name should be offensive to the victorious Americans, and when, in 1784, the affairs of the state of New York were rearranged, no voice was raised against the proposal to change Tryon to Montgomery, thus substituting in place of a detested tory the name of a patriotic martyr.

Montgomery county included the territory of Fulton county from 1784 to 1838, a period of fifty-four years. During that time the population of its towns increased in a manifold degree, and in no region was that increase more rapid than in the Mohawk valley. Amsterdam, Fultonville, Canajoharie, Fort Plain and other former hamlets had, by 1836, become villages of importance, and their inhabitants (particularly the legal profession) were desirous for a change of the county seat from old historic Johnstown to some place more convenient of access.

The arguments for the change, indeed, were well founded, Johnstown being several miles distant from the Mohawk river and separated by a hilly and ill-kept road, whose only public conveyance was the stage. Hence, when a strong petition of the river residents was presented to the legislature at the session of 1836, that body could not justly refuse the prayer, and Fonda was designated the county seat, the name being derived from that old and historic family whose descendants still dwell in the same vicinity.

The conditions of the removal were that a subscription of \$4,500 should be raised, and that a free gift of not less than three acres be made to the county upon which to erect the buildings. The courthouse is of brick, and cost \$30,500, which amount, however, included the cost of the first jail.



Abraham F. Morris

The removal of the public buildings from Johnstown to Fonda, while it wrought a great benefit to the majority, naturally created deep indignation in the northern towns, whose inhabitants resisted it in the most intense manner, and only submitted with the hope of relief in the formation of a new county. The removal indeed led them to petition for a division of old Montgomery, and a new county became a necessity to the northern inhabitants. The legislature, in harmony with this movement, passed an act on April 18, 1838, creating Fulton county, Johnstown being naturally designated as the capital, and the old public buildings were again brought into service.

Montgomery county jail originally stood south of the court-house on the same lot, but in 1881 it was destroyed by fire. The new jail (and sheriff's residence) was built immediately, and cost the county \$40,000. In this connection it may be well to insert the following inscription in the marble tablet over the main entrance to the court-house: "This building was erected in the year 1836 by Lawrence Marcellus, carpenter, and Henry Holmes, mason, under the charge of Aaron C. Wheelock, Henry Adams and Howland Fish, commissioners charged with the erection."

We now add the Montgomery county civil list: Presidential electors, Volkert Veeder, 1792; Charles Newkirk, 1796; Matthias B. Hildreth, 1804; Henry Yates, jr., 1808; Henry Frey Yates, 1812; Aaron Harding, 1816; Seth Wetmore, 1820;¹ Alexander Coffin, 1824; Rufus Crane, 1828; John S. Veeder, 1832; Frederick Sammons, 1836; Henry P. Voorhees, 1840; Stephen Sanford, 1872.

Representatives in Congress.—Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, 1789-91; James Gordon, 1791-93; Silas Talbot, 1793-95; William Cooper, 1795-97; James Cochran, 1797-99; Jonas Platt, 1799-1801; Benjamin Walker, 1801-03; Thomas Sammons, 1803-05, 1805-07, 1809-11, 1811-13; Peter Swart, 1807-09; Jacob Markell, 1813-15; Daniel Cady, 1815-17; John Herkimer, 1817-19; John Fay, 1819-21; Alfred Conkling, 1821-23; John W. Cady, 1823-25; Henry Markell, 1825-27; 1827-29; Benedict Arnold, 1829-31; Nathan Soule, 1831-33; Charles McVean, 1833-35; Matthias J. Bovee, 1835-37; John Edwards, 1837-39; Peter J. Wagner, 1839-41; John Sanford, 1841-

¹ Did not attend; William I. Dodge appointed to fill vacancy.

43; Charles Benton, 1843-45-47; George Petrie, 1847-49; Henry P. Alexander, 1849-51; Alexander H. Bull, 1851-53; Peter Rowe, 1853-55; Thomas R. Horton, 1855-57; Clarke B. Cochran, 1857-59-61; Chauncey Vibbard, 1861-63; James M. Marvin, 1863-65-67-69; Stephen Sanford, 1869-71; John M. Carroll, 1871-73; Henry W. Harthorn, 1873-75-77; John H. Starin, 1877-79-81; George West, 1881-83, Edward Wemple, 1883-85; George West, 1885-87; John Sanford, 1887-89-91.

Justices of the Supreme Court.—Frothingham Fish, 1883; Martin L. Stover, 1891.

Delegates to Constitutional Convention of 1788.—John Frey, William Harper, Henry Staring, Volkert Veeder, John Winn, Christopher P. Yates. Convention of 1801.—Nathaniel Campbell, Jonathan Hallett, John Herkimer, Thomas Sammons, Peter Waggoner, jr., Caleb Woodworth. Convention of 1821.—William I. Dodge, Howland Fish, Jacob Hess, Philip Rhinelander, jr., Alexander Sheldon. Convention of 1846.—John Bowdish, John Nellis. Convention of 1867.—Alonzo C. Paige (at large), Hezekiah Baker, Judson S. Landon, Albert Pond, and Horace E. Smith, representing the fifteenth district.

State Comptroller.—Edward Wemple, 1888-90; 1890-92.

State Senators.—Previous to the constitutional convention of 1821, Montgomery county formed a part of the western district, which sent in 1777 six representatives to the state senatorial body; they were Isaac Paris, Abraham Yates, jr., Dirck W. Ten Broek, Anthony Van Schaick, Jelles Fonda, and Rinier Mynderse. Jelles Fonda was in the same body in 1779-80-81-88-89-90-91; Abraham Yates, jr., in 1778-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90; Jacob G. Klock in 1778-79-80-81-82-83-84-85. The senators representing the county since the convention of 1821 have been as follows: Archibald McIntyre, 1823-26; Duncan McMartin, 1827-30; William I. Dodge, 1831-34; Jacob Willes, 1835; David Spraker, 1836-39; Bethuel Peck, 1840-42; Thomas B. Mitchell, 1843-46; Thomas Burtch, 1848-49; George H. Fox, 1850-51; (Fox resigned April 17, John Sanford elected to vacancy); Simeon Snow, 1852-53; George Yost, 1854-55; Frederick P. Bellinger, 1856-57; George G. Scott, 1858-59; Isaiah Blood, 1860-61; John Willard,¹ 1862-63; William Clark, 1863; James M. Cook,

¹ Died in office.

1864-65 ; Adam W. Kline, 1866-67 ; Charles Sanford, 1868-69 ; Isaiah Blood, 1870-71 ; Webster Wagner,¹ 1872-81 ; Alexander B. Baucus, 1882-83 ; James Arkell, 1884-85 ; John Foley, 1886-87 ; Charles Donaldson, 1888-89, 1890-91.

Members of Assembly²— Samuel Clyde, Zephaniah Batcheller, Michael Edic, Jacob Snell, 1777 ; George H. Bell, Samuel Clyde, Michael Edic, Jacob Snell, Peter Wagoner, jr., 1778 ; G. H. Bell, Abraham Copeland, Peter S. Dygert, Frederick Fox, Jacob Gardner, Peter Wagoner, jr., 1779 ; Z. Batcheller, A. Copeman, P. S. Dygert, F. Fox, J. Gardineer, P. Wagoner, 1780 ; J. Gardineer, Abraham Garrison, William Harper, P. Wagoner, jr., Z. Batcheller, 1781 ; Z. Batcheller, Frederick Fisher, John Frey, Andrew Frick, jr., A. Garrison, William Harper, 1782 ; Z. Batcheller, F. Fisher, John Frey, Andrew Frick, jr., 1783 ; A. Copeman, F. Fox, William Harper, James Livingston, Volkert Veeder, Chris. P. Yates, Isaac Paris, 1784 ; Fox, Harper, Livingston, Paris, Veeder, Yates, 1785 ; Abraham Arndt, John Frey, William Harper, James Livingston, V. Veeder, Abraham Van Horne, 1786 ; James Cannon, J. Frey, William Harper, J. Livingston, 1787 ; Arndt, Frey, Harper, John Livingston, Paris, Henry Staring, Veeder, John Winn, C. P. Yates, 1788 ; Arndt, Frey, Harper, Livingston, David McMasters, Staring, Veeder, Winn, Yates, 1789 ; Arndt, Livingston, McMasters, Veeder, 1790 ; Arndt, Frey, Livingston, John P. Vischer (Fisher), 1791 ; Jacob Eacker, Douw Fonda, Frey, McMasters, Silas Talbot, Simeon Veeder, 1792 ; Eacker, McMasters, Talbot, Veeder, 1793 ; Eacker, Frederick Getman, John McArthur, McMasters, Veeder, 1794 ; Fonda, Getman, McMasters, Veeder, 1795 ; David Cady, Eacker, Getman, John C. Van Epps, Peter Veeder, Simeon Veeder, 1796 ; Eacker, Getman, Van Epps, Peter and Simon Veeder, 1797 ; Getman, James Hildreth, Robert McFarlan, Archibald McIntyre, Henry Pawling, Stephen Reynolds, Jacob Snell, Phillip Van Alstyne, Simeon Veeder, Peter Voorhees, 1798 ; Cornelius Humphrey, McIntyre, Snell, Veeder, Frederick Sammons, John Herkimer, 1799 ; Humphrey, McIntyre, Snell, Veeder, Yates, Alex. Sheldon, 1800 ; McIntyre, Sammons, Snell, Charles Ward, Yates, Sheldon, 1801 ; Sheldon, Daniel Walker,

¹ Died January 13, 1882.

² Date of election given. Session begins January 1st thereafter.

Ward, Henry Kennedy, John Roof, 1802; Sheldon, Herkimer, David I. Ziely, Kennedy, McIntyre, 1803; John Seeber, Sheldon, Zieley, McIntyre, Jonathan Hallet, 1804; Joseph Wagoner, Sheldon, Herkimer, McIntyre, Samuel Jackson, 1805; Sheldon, James Lancing, Harmanus Vedder, Lawrence Gross, William Van O'Linda, 1806; Sheldon, Gross, Henry Fonda, Peter C. Fox, Vedder, 1807; John Fay, Daniel Cady, John Green, Richard Van Horne, David I. Zieley, 1888; Cady, Van Horne, Green, James Allen, Zieley, 1809; Nathan Christie, Van Horne, William Woodward, Nathan Kimball, Edmond G. Rawson, 1810; Cady, Jacob Eacker, Daniel Hurlbut, James McIntyre, Christie, 1811; Josiah Bartlett, Cady, John Fay, Hurlbut, Arch. McIntyre, Daniel McVean, Alexander Sheldon, Richard Van Horne, 1812; Bartlett, Cady, McVean, Van Horne, 1813; Solomon Dievendorff, John Eisenlord, Samuel A. Gilbert, Alexander St. John, John Shuler, Sylvanus Wilcox, Andrew Zabriskie, Alvah Southwick, 1814; Dievendorff, Eisenlord, St. John, Shuler, Southwick, 1815; Henry Gross, Henry Fonda, Samuel Jackson, Benedict Arnold, Isaac Sears, 1816; Barent K. Vrooman, S. Jackson, Ezekiel Belding, Henry Lyker, Jacob Shaw, 1817; Jacob Hess, Aaron Haring, Duncan McMartin, jr., Robert Hall, Samuel Jackson, 1818; Lawrence Gross, Henry J. Dievendorff, Jacob Hess, Henry Fonda, John L. Francisco, 1819; Howland Fish, Gross, Henry Failing, jr., David W. Candee, Arch. McIntyre, 1820; John W. Cady, James McIntyre, Joshua Webster, Henry Valentine, Nicholas Gross, 1821; George D. Ferguson, Christian Klock, Alvin Harris, Joseph Spier, 1822; Henry Cunningham, Francis H. Van Buren, Peter Smith, Peter C. Fox, 1823; Smith, Cunningham, Alexander St. John, Samuel Jackson, 1824; Abraham A. Vanhorne, Augustus Dievendorff, John French, Alexander Sheldon, 1825; Lawrence Gross, Nathaniel Westcott, Howland Fish, 1826; David F. Sacia, Nathaniel Westcott, John Veeder, 1827; Phineas Randall, Joseph Spinnard, Peter Young, 1828; Henry J. Dievendorff, Daniel Stewart, Thomas R. Benedict, 1829; William Robb, Platt Potter, Josiah C. Brown, 1830; Peter Wood, Silas Phillips, Jacob Van Arnam, 1831; Douw A. Fonda, William Carlisle, Cornelius Mabee, 1832; David Morrell, Charles S. Grinnell, Asel Hough, 1833; Henry Adams, Ashbel Loomis, Collins Odell, 1834; Joseph Blair, Henry V. Berry, Joseph Johnson, 1835; Joseph Blair, Jacob Hess,

Richard Peek, 1836; Marcellus Weston, Abraham V. Putnam, Jeremiah Nellis, 1837; Isaac Jackson, Isaac Frost, 1838; Peter Wood, John S. Veeder, 1839; Reuben Howe, Daniel F. Nellis, 1840; Lawrence Marcellus, James Dievendorff, 1841; John Bowdish, John I. Zoller, 1842; Clark B. Cochrane, Morgan L. Harris, 1843; Peter H. Fonda, John L. Bevins, 1844; Theodoric R. Liddle, Benjamin Baird, 1845; Gamaliel Bowdish, Andrew S. Grey, 1846; Asa Bowman, William A. Haslett, 1847; Frothingham Fish, Lewis Arville, 1848; Samuel H. Green, Charles Hubbs, 1849; Solomon Heath, Conrad P. Snell, 1850; John I. Davis, William Clarke, 1851; William McClellan, Abraham N. Van Alstyne, 1852; Aaron W. Hull, Hezekiah Baker, 1853-54; John Van Derveer, Joseph Spraker, 1855; Mathew O. Davis, Hezekiah Baker, 1856; Hezekiah Baker, 1857; Jeremiah Snell, 1858; Jay D. Bowman, 1859; Frothingham Fish, 1860; Nicholas Newkirk, 1861; Freeman P. Moulton, 1862; John Kellogg, 1863; Simeon Sammons, 1864; Isaac S. Frost, 1865; Abraham Hoffman, 1866; Angell Matthewson, 1867; Darius B. Berry, 1868; James Shanahan, 1869; Webster Wagner, 1870; William J. Van Dusen, 1871-72; Martin L. Storer, 1873; Martin Schenck, 1874; George M. Voorhees, 1875; Edward Wemple, 1876-77; John Warner, 1878-79; Cornelius Van Buren, 1880-81; James R. Snell, 1882; Martin Walrath, jr., 1883; Thomas Liddle, 1884-85; Robert Wemple, 1886-87; W. Barlow Dunlap, 1888-90; John K. Stewart, 1889; George L. Grove, 1891.

County Judges.—Guy Johnson, 1772; Jacob Klock, 1778; Jelles Fonda, 1784; Frederick Fisher, 1787; Abraham Arndt, 1801; Simeon Vedder, 1802; John McCarthy, 1809; Alexander Sheldon, 1815; Aaron Haring, 1819; Abraham Morrill, 1833; Phineas Randall, 1841; John Darrow, 1846; Samuel Belding, jr., 1847; Richard H. Cushney, 1859; George Yost, 1863; James H. Cook, 1867; Solomon P. Heath, 1871; Zerah S. Westbrook, 1877-83; Henry V. Borst, (by appointment) John D. Wendell, 1889.

Surrogates.—Christopher P. Yates, 1778; Isaac Paris, 1787; Josiah Crane, 1790; Charles Walton, 1800; James Lansing, 1801; Tobias A. Stoutenburgh, 1821; Richard H. Cushney, 1838; Giles F. Van Vechten, 1843. Since 1846 the county judge has performed the duties of surrogate.

District Attorneys.¹—Daniel Cady, appointed February 28, 1813; Samuel S. Lush, April 6, 1813; Richard M. Livingston, February 16, 1815; Alfred Conkling, 1818; William I. Dodge, 1821; Charles McVean, 1836; Garret L. Roof, 1841; Howland Fish, 1843; Henry Adams, 1846; John A. Mitchell, 1847; Stephen Sammons, 1850; Peter G. Webster, 1853; Abraham Hees, 1856; James H. Cook, 1859; Henry Sacia, 1862; Daniel S. Morrell, 1865; Hezekiah Baker, 1868; John D. Wendell, 1871; Henry Dunkel, 1874; Robert B. Fish, 1880; Henry V. Borts, 1883; Charles S. Nesbitt, 1885-89.

Sheriffs.—Alexander White, 1772; John Frey, 1775; Anthony Van Veghten, 1777; Abraham Van Horne, 1781; Samuel Clyde, 1785; John Winn, 1789; John Little, 1793; Josiah Crane, 1795; James Hildreth, 1798; Benjamin Van Vleck, 1799; James Hildreth, 1801; James McIntyre, 1806; Jacob Snell, 1810; John Eisenlord, 1811; Jacob Snell, 1813; John Eisenlord, 1815; John Holland, 1817; Seth Wetmore, 1821; Charles Easton, 1825; John French, 1828; Isaac Jackson, 1831; Malachi Kittle, 1834; William T. Sammons, 1837; Thomas Burns, 1840; Lyndes Jones, 1843; Edwin W. Irvin, 1846; Barney Becker, 1849; Livingston Spraker, 1852; Abraham Hoffman, 1855; Lorenzo B. Clarke, 1868; Alexander Snell, 1861; James W. Kline, 1864; David B. Hegeman, 1867; Alfred J. Wagner, 1870; James W. Kline, 1873; Stephen Fonda, 1876; William J. Scharff, 1879; Isaac A. Rosa, 1882; Jacob Snell, 1885; John D. Schuyler, 1888; Thomas Liddle, 1891.

County Clerks.—Christopher P. Yates, 1777; Daniel Paris, 1800; Henry Frey Yates, 1802; John McCarthy, 1815; Peter H. Bostwick, 1821; Henry Frey Yates, 1822; George D. Ferguson, 1825; Alexander J. Comrie, 1828; George B. Ferguson, 1831; Alexander J. Comrie, 1837; Henry Cook, 1840; Chester S. Brumley, 1843; John W. Van Deveer, 1859; Darius V. Berry, 1855; James I. Brookman, 1864; Abner H. Burtch, 1870; William N. Johnston, 1876; Alonzo E. Hall, 1882; George L. Davis, 1888; R. Simon Blood, 1891.

County Treasurers.²—John M. Caldwell, 1848; Daniel Conyne, 1851;

¹ Previous to the act of 1818 the office was called assistant attorney-general. Montgomery county was part of the 5th district.

² Previous to the constitution of 1846, county treasurers were appointed by the board of supervisors.



W. H. Johnston.

Douw A. Fonda, 1857; Adam W. Kline, 1860; John C. Smith, 1863; James Frost, 1869; Alonzo A. De Forest, 1872; Norman S. Brumley, 1875; James K. Edward, 1878; John Finehout, 1887; Daniel I. Devoe, 1890.

School Commissioners.—Originally this office was county superintendent of common schools, under an act passed April 17, 1843, but was abolished in 1847. During the life of the office, Walter Hough, Freeman P. Moulton and Walter Cross were superintendents. School commissioners were appointed prior to 1857, and elected afterward. They have been as follows: A. W. Cox, Walter Cross, John L. Brookman, Morris Klock, Thomas S. Ireland, Abram B. Miller, Charles Buckingham, George F. Cox, Seeley Conover, Alonzo Gewey, Henry K. Salisbury, John H. Wienmann.

CHAPTER XV.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DURING THE REBELLION.

AT half past four o'clock on the morning of April 12, 1861, a shot was fired from a Confederate battery in Charleston harbor, and struck Fort Sumter, which was held by a Federal garrison. Three days after this outburst of treason President Lincoln issued a proclamation calling upon the Union states to send to the national capital seventy-five thousand militia for its defence. On the 16th the State Military Board of New York held a meeting, and Governor Morgan at once sent a message to the secretary of war assuring him that the quota required of this state would be immediately mustered into service. The governor also at once issued orders, acting in concert with the military board, and called upon the militia for seventeen regiments of 780 men each. The result was that in a very few days the state of New York sent 13,906 effective men to Washington; and it is an historical fact that the opportune arrival of these troops saved the government buildings from attack and possible destruction.

Under the several calls, general, special and by draft, both in army and navy, the state of New York furnished an aggregate of 502,765 men, and of these Montgomery county provided its full quota. It is to be regretted, however, that the precise number cannot be given, as the state authorities were so remiss that no roster has ever been published or even compiled.

The outbreak of the war found the political situation in Montgomery to be much the same as in other counties of similar condition, and while at times there were murmurings and dissatisfaction, they were not of such a character as to cause general alarm.

During the course of the war, Montgomery county furnished men for twenty different regiments, although in several of them the representation was quite small. The first of these of which any mention is made, was the Thirty-second Volunteer Infantry, to Companies B and D to which the towns of Canajoharie and Amsterdam, respectively, contributed. The principal regiments containing any considerable number of local recruits, however, were the One Hundred and Fifteenth and the One Hundred and Fifty-third, although in this connection should be mentioned the Forty-third and the First and Thirteenth regiments of artillery. As each of these is detailed at some length in this chapter, it is not necessary at present to make any further reference.

THE THIRTY-SECOND REGIMENT.

The Thirty-second was recruited under one of the first calls for troops, and was accepted by the state on May 22, 1861. It was organized in New York city, and on May 31st it was mustered into service for two years. On the expiration of this term the three years' men were transferred to the One Hundred and Twenty-first regiment. Company B was recruited at Canajoharie, and Company D at Amsterdam; but, unfortunately, there does not appear to be any roll of names, for which reason we are unable to furnish them to the reader. The Thirty-second marched June 29, 1861, and served for several weeks at Washington and Alexandria, but was afterwards attached to the Army of the Potomac, and shared its reverses and victories until the term of enlistment ended. The regiment was mustered out of service June 9, 1863.

Battles of the Thirty-second.—Fairfax Court House, July 17, 1861; Blackburn's Ford, July 20, 1861; Bull Run, July 21, 1861; Munson's Hill, August 25 and September 28, 1861; Anandale, December 2, 1861; West Point, Va., May 7, 1862; Seven Days' battles, June 25—July 2, 1862; Gaines' Mill, June 27, 1862; Garnett's and Golding's farms, June 28, 1862; Glendale, June 30, 1862; Malvern Hill, July 1, 1862; Crampton Pass, September 14, 1862; Antietam, September, 17, 1862; Fredericksburg, December 11—15, 1862; Franklin's Crossing, April 29 and May 2, 1863; Marye's Heights and Salem Church, May 3—4, 1863.

THE FORTY-THIRD REGIMENT.

This regiment, which was known as the "Albany and Yates Rifles," and also as the "Vinton Rifles," received its designation September 18, 1861. It was recruited during the late summer and early fall of that year, the town of Canajoharie furnishing the greater part of Company E. The Forty-third was organized and mustered into service at Albany in September, 1861, for three years. On the 21st of the month last mentioned the regiment marched and served at and near Washington until the 15th of the following October, when it became a part of Hancock's brigade, Smith's division, Army of the Potomac. In May, 1862, it was attached to the first brigade in the second division of the sixth corps, and later on formed a part of the famous "Light Brigade," during the Chancellorsville campaign. We next find this regiment in the third brigade, second division, sixth corps, with which it continued until June 27, 1865, under command of Col. Charles A. Millikin, when at Washington, it was honorably discharged and mustered out of service. It may be stated in connection with the history of the Forty-third, that on July 18, 1862, it was consolidated into five companies—A, B, C, D and E—but in October following five new companies joined the regiment, thus completing its organization. Then on September 22, 1864, by reason of the expiration of terms of enlistment, it became necessary to renew the consolidation, and it was again formed into five companies.

The Forty-third was one of the hardest fighting regiments in the Army of the Potomac, and during its service bore an honorable part in

a number of the most severe and sanguinary actions of the war. The story of its vicissitudes and triumphs, however, is best told by referring to the battles in which it participated, which were as follows: Vienna and Flint Hill, February 22, 1862; Siege of Yorktown, April 5 and May 4, 1862; Lee's Mills, April 16, and 28, 1862; Williamsburg, May 5, 1862; Seven days' battle, June 25, to July 2, 1862; Garnett's Farm, June 27, 1862; Garnett's and Golding's Farms, June 28, 1862; Savage Station, June 29, 1862; White Oak Swamp Bridge, June 30, 1862; Malvern Hill, July 1, 1862; Sugar Loaf Mountain, September 10-11, 1862; Crampton Pass, September 14, 1862; Antietam, September 17, 1862; Fredericksburg, December 11-15, 1862; Marye's Heights and Salem church, May 3-4, 1863; Deep Run Crossing, June 5, 1863; Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863; Fairfield, Pa., July 5, 1863; Antietam and Marsh Run, July 7, 1863; near Lietersburg, July 10, 1863; Funks-town, July 11-13, 1863; Williamsport, July 14, 1863; Auburn, October 13, 1863; Rappahannock Station, November 7, 1863; Mine Run Campaign, November 26 and December 2, 1863; Wilderness, May 5-7, 1864; Spottsylvania Court House, May 8-21, 1864; Piney Branch Church, May 8, 1864; Landron's Farm, May 10, 1864; the Salient, May 12, 1864; North Anna, May 22-26, 1864; Tolopotomy, May 27-31, 1864; Cold Harbor, June 1-12, 1864; before Petersburg, June 18, July 9 and December, 1864, and April 2, 1865; Assault of Petersburg, June 18-19, 1864; Weldon railroad, June 21-23, 1864; Fort Stevens, July 12-13, 1864; Charlestown, August 21, 1864; Opequan Creek, September 13, 1864; Opequan, September 19, 1864; Fisher's Hill, September 22, 1864; Cedar Creek, October 19, 1864; Petersburg Works, March 22, 1865; Appomattox campaign, March 28 and April 9, 1865; Fall of Petersburg, April 2, 1865; Sailor's Creek, April 6, 1865; Appomattox Court House, April 9, 1865.

Officers of Company E.—Captain, Jacob Wilson; first lieutenant, Hiram A. Winslow; sergeants, Thomas Avery, Frank Shurburt, J. W. Hagadorn, Jackson Davis; corporals, John W. Dain, William F. Ward, Cornelius Van Alstyne, Christopher Richards, Martin O'Brien; musicians, Charles Marcy, Wm. Flint; privates, George M. Algier, Samuel Allen, Isaac Bauder, James Barry, John Conrad, James Cary, James Connor, James Dwyer, Wm. Drake, Charles Drake, George Eicher,

John Farrell, John Fralick, James Farlan, Henry Fero, Lewis Hartley, Henry Henneman, Jerome Hill, Richard Hardin, Richard Handy, Wm. Hillebrandt, J. Hammersmith, John Jolly, Frank Jolly, George Jackson, John Karg, John Kiernan, Thomas Lynch, Peter Lynch, Charles Luckin, John McBahan, Theodore Martin, Charles Miller, Peter McNinny, John McCabe, Daniel McMann, William Meagher, John Murphy, Ellis Moyer, Orvillar Mann, John Neil, Harrison Plank, Peter H. Reynolds, David Race, Jonas Race, Henry Showdy, Charles Shultz, Thomas Smith, Charles Smith, Stephen Socks, Albert Taylor, M. Van Brocklin, A. A. Van Valkenburg, Frederick Willick, Abel Weaver, James Young.

THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH REGIMENT.

This regiment contained more Montgomery county recruits than any to which the county contributed, and was raised at a time when the government was in great need of volunteers, during the trying summer of 1862. Companies A, B, D, G, H, I and K contained men from this county, forming indeed almost half of the entire regiment, but the full enlistment is credited to Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga and Montgomery counties. The One Hundred and Fifteenth regiment was completed and organized about the middle of August, 1862, and mustered into service at Fonda, the place of rendezvous, on the 26th, by Captain Edgerton, of the regular army. The field and staff officers chosen upon the organization of the regiment were as follows: Simeon Sammons, of Mohawk, colonel; George S. Bacheller, of Saratoga, lieutenant-colonel; Patrick H. Cowan, of Saratoga, major; Thomas R. Horton, of Fultonville, adjutant; Martin McMartin, of Johnstown, quartermaster; Richard H. Sutton, of Saratoga, surgeon; Wm. H. Ingersoll, assistant surgeon, Sylvester W. Clemens, chaplain.

On the 29th of August, 1862, the regiment broke camp at Fonda and proceeded under orders to Charlestown, Va., where its first service was to guard the Shenandoah railroad, but soon afterwards it marched to Harper's Ferry and camped on Bolivar Heights. On the 13th of September it went into its first battle at Maryland Heights, and two days later witnessed General Miles's cowardly surrender at Bolivar Heights. The One Hundred and Fifteenth was next ordered to Ann-

apolis, but almost immediately was sent to Chicago on guard and provost duty, where it remained until the 20th of November and then returned to Washington. Instead, however, of encamping for the winter at the national capital, as was expected, the men were kept under constant motion, and suddenly, in January, 1863, the command was transferred to the department of the south with headquarters at Hilton Head, where it arrived on January 26. Here the regiment was divided into detachments and kept on guard duty until the latter part of May, and then reunited. While 1863 was uneventful so far as the One Hundred and Fifteenth was concerned, the succeeding year brought the regiment intense excitement, for it was ordered into perilous service and bore part in some of the most sanguinary battles of the war. Beginning with the engagement at Jacksonville, Fla., on February 7, and ending with Fort Fisher on December 25, the One Hundred and Fifteenth fought in twenty-two battles, but no where were its losses so severe as at Olustee on the 20th of February, where it lost more than one-half of its members engaged. Even a casual glance at the roll of Montgomery county companies will show how terribly the One Hundred and Fifteenth Regiment suffered in this battle. Although neither of the opposing armies could claim a victory, the One Hundred and Fifteenth won marked distinction, and was publicly complimented by General Seymour, who named it the "Iron-hearted Regiment," in honor of its bravery in that bloody action. After remaining some time in the south the One Hundred and Fifteenth, on April 18, was ordered to Gloucester Point, Va., and was there incorporated into the Tenth Corps, under command of General Butler. The official record shows what a prominent part it bore while it was attached to Butler's command. That its service must have been severe is evident from the fact that in the latter part of August its effective strength was reduced to less than 120 men. On the 15th of January, 1865, the One Hundred and Fifteenth took part in the second battle at Fort Fisher, followed by three other engagements in February, after which its service consisted mainly of guard duty. On the 17th of June it was mustered out, and on the 18th left Raleigh for Albany, where the men were paid off and finally discharged. The One Hundred and Fifteenth regiment left its old barracks at Fonda in the fall of 1862 with a full complement of

1,040 officers and men; in June, 1865, at the final muster-out its numerical strength was less than 200 of its original members.

Official battles of the One Hundred and Fifteenth: Maryland Heights, September 13, 1862; Bolivar Heights, September 15, 1862; West Point, Va., January 8, 1863; Jacksonville, Fla., February 7, 1864; Camp Finnegan, Fla., February 8, 1864; Baldwin, Fla., February 9, 1864; Sanderson, Fla., February 11, 1864; Callahan Station, Fla., February 14, 1864; Olustee, Fla., February 20, 1864; Palatka, Fla., March 10, 1864; Bermuda Hundred, Va., May 5, 1864; Chesterfield Heights, Va., May 7, 1864; Old Church, Va., May 9, 1864; Weir Bottom Church, Va., May 12, 1864; Drury's Bluff, May 14, 1864; Proctor's Creek and Port Walthall, May 16, 1864; Cold Harbor, June 1, 1864; Chickahominy, June, 1864; Petersburg, June 23, 1864; Burnside Mine, July 30, 1864; Deep Bottom, August 16-18, 1864; Fort Gilmer, September 29, 1864; Darbytown, October 27, 1864; Fort Fisher, December 25, 1864; Fort Fisher, January 15, 1865; Fort Anderson, February 19, 1865; Sugar Loaf, February 20, 1865; Wilmington, February 22, 1865.

Officers of Co. A.—Captain, Garrett Van Deveer, Fonda, mortally wounded at Olustee, died February 24, 1864; first lieutenant, Willet Ferguson, Fonda, promoted to captain, February 24, 1864; second lieutenant, John W. Davis, Fonda, promoted to first lieutenant, severely wounded at Olustee. Sergeants, C. N. Ballou, Fonda, promoted to second lieutenant, to captain in 1864; Stephen Morris, jr., Glen, mortally wounded at Olustee; C. C. Cole, Glen, wounded at Drury's Bluff; James W. Van Arnum, Fonda, promoted to second lieutenant, June, 1865; Charles Gross, Glen, died at Washington. Corporals, Thomas Smeaton, Root; John A. Hubbard, Fonda, lost leg at Harper's Ferry; Simeon J. Aumack, Glen, killed at Deep Bottom; Nicholas Shultz, Palatine; Silas W. Horning, Glen, lost arm at Deep Bottom; Stephen B. Nellis, Palatine; Rodolphus H. Tipple, Glen. Musicians, Joseph Allen, Alvergone Ackert, Fonda, killed at Fort Fisher. Wagoner, George H. Bellows, Glen, mortally wounded at Olustee.

Privates, Glen.—Joseph Bese, John D. Bond (died of disease, May 20, 1865), Charles Clapson (mortally wounded by accident at Hilton Head), Ezra Coleman (died at Fort Monroe), Elisha Carson (died in

Andersonville, February 20, 1864), Alfred J. Castler (promoted to corporal, wounded at Olustee), Joseph Carpenter, Charles Dinegar (killed at Fort Fisher, January 15, 1865), Oswald Glen, William Hilton (promoted to sergeant), John Holsner (died in Virginia), George Hart (wounded at Olustee, died in Andersonville), John Keyderling, H. A. Keyderling, A. W. Kirkham (wounded and prisoner at Olustee), Henry Keyderling, Alexander Lanegar, Jacob M. Lanegar, Solomon Lanegar, Peter Lanegar (killed at Fort Fisher, January 15, 1865), A. H. M. Lanegar, John A. Lanegar, Ira A. Lanegar, Mortimer D. Lowell, Edward McCann, Bernard McGuire, Thomas R. Nealey, Samuel D. Osterhout (died at Hilton Head, May 6, 1863), Daniel Peeler (died in Andersonville), Joshua W. Ripley, George L. Rice, Levi Smith, W. N. Sandt (died in hospital), John Sherlock (prisoner at Deep Bottom), John J. Van Brocklin (died of wounds at Harper's Ferry, September 15, 1862), William Van Alstyne (wounded at Olustee), Charles Weeper (wounded at Olustee, died in rebel prison, August, 1864), William Weeper.

Fonda.—George W. Blowers, Michael Byers (killed at Chesterfield Heights, May 7, 1864), John Brower, Reuben Blowers, Daniel Burk, James P. Caldwell, William Crowden, John Dutcher, James M. Dean, (died at Hilton Head), George Enney, Thomas J. Henry, Henry Heaser, (killed at Petersburg, June 30, 1864), John Horning, John Hogan (killed at Petersburg, July 13, 1864), Hiram Lusk (died in hospital February, 1864), Whiting A. Lee, William Reynolds, Niles Reynolds, George Smith, William Strait, Frederick Seller, Nathan Terrell, Martin Timmins (wounded at Deep Bottom, died September 14, 1864.)

Canajoharie.—Nelson Ambridge, Charles De Van (killed at Deep Bottom August 16, 1864), Charles Ergabroadt, Daniel T. Goodbread, James Gardner (wounded at Olustee and died March 19, 1864), William Gardner, Patrick Jay, Samuel H. Lusk, John Lewis, John Lasher, Menzo Lasher, Lewis Martin, jr., ——— McDowell (killed at Olustee), John H. Peeler (wounded at Drury's Bluff), Jacob Sabinhart, Leander Snell, Conradt Smith (wounded and missing at Fort Fisher), Joseph Shannon, John Van Dusen, Lafayette Waterman (died in rebel prison November 11, 1864), all of Palatine. Oliver Lighthall (wounded at Chester Heights), Michael McMahon, Henry O'Neil, of Root. John Gow (died at Beaufort), Daniel T. Steele, of Mohawk. John Petit.

Privates, residence unknown.—G. H. Bellows (died at Hilton Head), Robert Baker (died at Salisbury), Rosdell Corlew (died in North Carolina), F. Cromwell (died at Olustee), John Faus (died at Andersonville), John Kaiser (killed in Virginia), Wm. A. Pratt (died in Virginia), John Robinson (died at Andersonville), John Snyder (died at Hilton Head).

Officers of Company B—Captain, John P. Kneeskern, Minden; first lieutenant, H. X. Dievendorff, Canajoharie, resigned; second lieutenant, John Van de Saude, Fort Plain, wounded at Deep Bottom, died at Fortress Monroe, October 3, 1864. Sergeants, Wm. J. Lasher, St. Johnsville; Isaac E. Smith, St. Johnsville, promoted second lieutenant and to first lieutenant, Company C, and to captain; Daniel K. Peacock, Fonda; Jacob H. Snyder, Fonda; Joseph L. Mosher, Canajoharie. Corporals, August Collier, St. Johnsville, promoted second lieutenant November, 1864, to first lieutenant June, 1865; Job J. Harlow, Minden; Edward C. Buddle, Canajoharie; Countryman Jadua, St. Johnsville, (killed at Fort Fisher); John Reardon, St. Johnsville, promoted second lieutenant June, 1865; Washington Vosburgh, Canajoharie; Charles Tucker, Fonda; John F. Moyer, Fonda. Musicians, Darwin R. Hicks, St. Johnsville; Marcus Powell, St. Johnsville. Wagoner, Alonzo Van Evera, Fonda.

Privates.—Canajoharie, Wilbur Alpaugh, Wm. L. Alger, Henry T. Becker, Wm. H. Burden, James S. Brown, John Becker (wounded and prisoner), Seeley Conover, Livingston Derrick, Wm. E. Flint (killed at Olustee, February 20, 1864), Wm. H. Flint, Lewis H. Goodrich, Henry Goodrich (killed at Cold Harbor June 3, 1864), George Hoyt, George J. Hickey, Wm. W. Lake, Lucus Mount (wounded, prisoner and died), Anthony Otto, Charles Schuyler, Lucius A. Smith, (wounded and prisoner at Olustee, died at Andersonville September, 1864), George S. Smith.

St. Johnsville.—Jacob B. Brown (killed near Petersburg June 24, 1864), Robert E. Burk, Orrin H. Brown, George W. Burk, James Bellis, John Burns, David L. Collins, Leonard J. Crouse, John Denmark (died at Hilton Head May, 1863), Abram Failing, jr., John W. Higgins, William Hompkey, David Handy, William S. Hess, Peter V. Lampman, William H. Lampman, Lewis Magadien, John H. Miller, Norman Miller, Peter Nellis, John C. Nellis, Abner Snell, Orville Snell, E. W.

Southerland, Dan. K. Schram, James Sneck, Daniel Starin, Alonzo Smith (killed at Olustee February 20, 1864), D. C. Tompkins, James H. Veeder, Nicholas Winne, Reuben Walrath (wounded at Darbytown road October 27, 1864).

Minden.—Norman Cook, Aaron Garlock, James Green, Daniel Gilday (killed at Olustee), Abram Hanson, Samuel L. Hungerford, John A. Keeler, Charles C. Lappee, John P. Lintner (wounded at Petersburg, died September 1864), William J. Miller, Patrick McMahon, Morgan W. Moyer, Thomas McGreevy, John W. Moak, George Miller, Frank Niederlander (killed at Olustee), Nicholas Rupert (killed at Deep Bottom August 16, 1864), John Smith, Charles Tring, Fisher F. Van Epps, Frank Washburn, Daniel J. Whiting.

Fonda.—Henry Albright, David Bowes (died of typhoid fever August 14, 1864), Henry Byer, Robert Gray, Robert Kitts, Michael Maloney, Richard Maxfield (wounded and prisoner at Olustee, died November, 1864).

Amsterdam.—William Welch, John J. Williams, George Weaver.

Florida.—James J. West.

Residence Unknown.—B. Moyer (died at Savannah), R. Maxfield (died near home).

Officers of Company D.—Captain, Sidney D. Lingenfelter, Amsterdam; first lieutenant, Thomas Wayne, Florida, discharged for disability February 22, 1865; second lieutenant, Hugh S. Sanford, Amsterdam, promoted captain. Sergeants, Nicholas De Graff, Amsterdam, promoted second lieutenant June, 1863, first lieutenant February, 1865; William W. McKay, Amsterdam; Charles Kline, Amsterdam, promoted second lieutenant November, 1864, first lieutenant May, 1865; John C. Brand, Charleston; Elbert Slingerland, Amsterdam. Corporals, William H. Baker, Florida; Frank Moon, Amsterdam; William McColton, Amsterdam, wounded at Olustee; Levi Lingenfelter, Amsterdam, killed at Olustee February 20, 1864; Henry Hilton, Charleston; Edward S. Montayne, Charleston; Daniel Grant, Amsterdam, wounded at Olustee; Schuyler Gordon, Charleston. Musicians, Chauncy Snyder, Amsterdam; Francis Snyder, Amsterdam. Wagoner, Clark Vedder, Amsterdam.

Privates from Amsterdam.—Willard E. Bemis, William Boyd, Abraham Brower, Myron L. Bemis (wounded at Fort Gilmer, died October

11, 1864), Andrew Clark (died at Beaufort June 28, 1863), Williamson Cuning, Andrew M. Claflin, Sylvester N. Dodd (killed on railroad at Chicago), Peter A. Folmsby (killed at Olustee), Daniel Goodemote, John Gillims (wounded at Olustee), William E. Glover (wounded at Olustee, killed at Petersburg), Thomas Heavy (died in New York hospital August 4, 1865), Abner Hall, John Hansaw, Henry C. Hart, John B. Harrower, Isaac Harrower (died August 7, 1864), Fred. Hutchkins, Albert Inman, George Kline, Thomas Lepper, Oscar Lockwood, James Little, William Little, Samuel Marshall, Aaron McIntosh, James McCollum (died at Deep Bottom), James McKercher, James McNully (wounded at Olustee), Walter McCowlett, Daniel Mosher, William H. Nutt, Henry Rust, William Robinson, Chauncey Snyder, jr. (died of fever November 15, 1862), Alfred Saltsman (died November 15, 1862), Michael E. Soules, Alfred C. Shepard, Charles E. Thayer, John Turner (wounded at Olustee, died September 15, 1864), Cornelius Tyneson, Elbert Tyneson, John H. Wendell, John W. Wilmot.

Florida.—Leonard Burns, David R. Brower, George Cassiday (died at Beaufort), James English, John French (died May 12, 1864), James Fredendall, George Fredendall, Philip McCarthy, John S. McMasters (died at Fort Monroe), Lewis Rosa, John H. Simpson (died at Andersonville), Alex. B. Shute, Daniel Tullock (wounded at Olustee), Kelley S. Tullock, James A. Tripp, William Thayer (died in rebel prison September 21, 1864), James W. Templer.

Charleston.—Jacob Albright, Harvey Bunzey, Winslow Burton (died October 24, 1864), Roderick F. Barlow (killed at Olustee), James Bretton, William E. Colgrove (died in rebel prison December 3, 1863), Philip V. Colgrove, Frank M. Conover (killed at Deep Bottom), Alfred G. Eaton, Nathan F. Folmsby, Miner B. Humphrey, Charles E. Kellogg (died of fever December 16, 1862), William H. H. Martin, John A. Ostrander, Samuel T. Rider, Asa B. Rider (died of fever November 23, 1862).

Mohawk.—Frank Crow (died in rebel prison October 21, 1864), Charles Dunbar, Robert Welch (wounded at Olustee).

Residence Unknown.—J. N. Countryman (wounded at Olustee), W. Clark (wounded at Olustee), Nicholas H. Eaton (wounded at Olustee), Charles Friny (died at Beaufort), J. Johns (wounded at Olustee), Will-

iam H. Kellogg (wounded at Olustee), Henry Newman (wounded at Olustee), B. Owens (wounded at Olustee), Charles Ormand (wounded at Olustee), Edward Smith (killed at Olustee), Henry Wood (wounded at Olustee).

Company G.—Amsterdam, privates, Michael Maloney (wounded at Olustee), R. S. Quillett, William Van Slyke, William H. Wiley (wounded, died in rebel prison.)

Company H.—Privates, Minden, Lyman Brown, Michael Dean, Patrick Egan, Michael Flanigan, John Hart, Dennis Ray, Jacob Smith.

Amsterdam—Jacob Ouderkirk, George Thorne, J. J. Vosburgh, Francis Williamson.

Florida—William H. Kellogg.

Fonda—James Richards.

Company I.—Captain, Ezra E. Walrath, Syracuse; first lieutenant, David M. Kittle, Canajoharie, promoted captain May, 1864; sergeants, Jeremiah Bovee, Canajoharie; George O. Smith, Canajoharie, promoted second lieutenant, January 27, 1864; James M. Young, Fonda, died at home; George Maxon, Canajoharie; corporal, Frederick C. Winsman, Canajoharie, died at Chicago.

Privates from Canajoharie.—Henry Billington (wounded at Deep Bottom), Henry W. Babcock, B. C. Cristansen (died in New Jersey), Martin Carver, R. Crandall (died in Andersonville), Livingston Devrick, Morgan M. Flint (killed at Drury's Bluff), Simeon Faulkner, James Gardner, Alex. Kershuckey (died in New York city), John Kelley, Nickolas B. Lewis, Sylvanus Moyer (killed at Chesterfield Heights), John McLoy, Patrick North, Martin Price, Augustus Price, George Rolf, Charles W. Sharff (wounded at Olustee), Thomas J. Stephens, Lucas Van Evera (died at Norfolk, Va., July, 1864), Theodore Whitford.

Palatine—Chauncey Goodbread, Frederick W. Keaner, Daniel Peeler (died in rebel prison, June 22, 1864), Jeremiah Rightmyer, Peter N. Rightmyer, Noah Suits.

Glen—William Disbrow (died at Portsmouth, Va.), Michael Miller, (died at Beaufort), Barney McGuire (died at Annapolis.)

Fonda—John W. Crosby, R. B. Kelly, Aaron B. Snell, Abijah Smith, Horatio Smith (died at Chicago.)

St. Johnsville—Ezra Coleman (died of wounds at Fortress Monroe, November 11, 1864), Clark Southwick (died in hospital at Beaufort of wound January 26, 1864), James E. Walrath.

Amsterdam—A. G. Snyder (died at Petersburg), Francis Wilmerson.

Minden—Patrick Harvey, Thomas Clark.

Mohawk—John Pettit.

Root—Frank E. Rich.

Residence unknown—Benjamin Truman, P. Sullivan (killed at Petersburg.)

Officers Company K.—Captain, William Smith, Amsterdam, wounded at Maryland Heights. Hospital steward, J. Countryman, St. Johnsville, killed at Fort Fisher.

Privates.—Mohawk—Millig Bump, William L. Frederick, George S. Jones.

Palatine—Abram Backmyer (died at Fortress Monroe), Edward Bradt, James De Graff, Nathan Layton, Abram Rockmyer.

Glen—Francis Kersh (died at Hilton Head, June 21, 1863), Michael Miller (died at Beaufort, January 15, 1864.)

Amsterdam—John D. More, William S. Young (wounded at Olustee), Joseph Younger.

Residence unknown—J. M. Amsted (died at Deep Bottom), William Bailey (wounded at Olustee), A. Hardell (died at Raleigh, N. C.), James Hunter (wounded at Olustee), Charles W. Johnson (wounded at Olustee), Joseph Wistar (died at Staten Island.)

THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-THIRD REGIMENT.

This regiment was raised in the northern counties of the state; seven of its companies being from Montgomery and Fulton counties, and three from Essex, Warren and Clinton. The Montgomery county men were chiefly in Companies B, C and E, while a smaller number was in F and G. Company B drew almost its entire strength from the towns of Mohawk and Palatine; C was made principally with recruits from Florida and Glen; E was the Minden and St. Johnsville company, its captain and first lieutenant, however, being Fonda men. The chief officers and a few men of Company F were from Fonda and other Mont-

gomery county towns, but its greater strength came from Fulton county. The local contribution to Company G was small, consisting mainly of officers.

The One Hundred and Fifty-third, like its companion regiment, the One Hundred and Fifteenth, was organized and mustered into service at Fonda, but this did not take place until October 14, 1862. Immediately after its organization it was ordered to Alexandria, but soon did provost service at Washington, which continued for more than a year. In February, 1864, it was transferred to Louisiana, and attached to the Nineteenth corps, being assigned to the First brigade, First division, commanded by General Franklin. The corps sailed from New Orleans on the 3d of July, under sealed orders; but its destination proved to be the Chesapeake. The One Hundred and Fifty-third, together with four companies belonging to other regiments, being the advance of the corps, were, on their arrival at Fortress Monroe, instantly ordered without disembarking, to the defense of Washington, then menaced by General Early's invasion. The troops were hurried through the city amid deep public excitement and general alarm, to a position at Fort Stevens, where they went into immediate action. After the repulse of the enemy the regiment joined in the pursuit across the Potomac, penetrating into the Shenandoah valley, but was suddenly recalled to the vicinity of the capital to oppose another threatened hostile advance.

The One Hundred and Fifty-third soon afterward engaged in the battle of Winchester, in which the Montgomery county companies again did good service. It also participated in the engagement at Fisher's Hill and in pursuit of the defeated confederates. The Nineteenth corps, to which the One Hundred and Fifty-third still belonged, was also engaged in the battle of Cedar Creek, and suffered heavy losses incident to the surprise and early catastrophes of that bloody field. The regiment also formed a part of the picket line which surrounded Washington after the assassination of President Lincoln, and performed guard duty at the military court which tried the assassins. In June, 1865, it was ordered to Savannah, where it did provost duty until its discharge from service, October 2, 1865.

Official list of battles of the 153d.—Red River campaign, La., March 10 and May 22, 1864; Pleasant Hill, April 9, 1864; Mansura, May

16, 1864; Washington, D. C., July 12, 13, 1864; Opequan, September 19, 1864; Fisher's Hill, September 22, 1864; near Strasburg, October 14, 1864; Cedar Creek, October 19, 1864.

Field and Staff Officers.—Colonels, Duncan McMartin, resigned April 25, 1862; Edwin P. Davis, mustered out with regiment.

Lieutenant Colonels—Thomas A. Armstrong, resigned February 18, 1863; William H. Printup, resigned November 17, 1863; Alexander Strain, discharged January 4, 1865; George H. McLaughlin, mustered out with regiment.

Majors.—Edwin P. Davis, promoted colonel March 26, 1863; Alexander Strain, promoted lieutenant-colonel December 1, 1863; Stephen Sammons, resigned August 27, 1864; Jacob C. Klock, not mustered; George H. McLaughlin, promoted lieutenant-colonel January 26, 1865; Charles V. Putnam, died September 9, 1865; Abram V. Davis, not mustered.

Adjutants—Stephen Sammons, promoted major December 2, 1863; Abram V. Davis, mustered out October 2, 1865; Frederick A. Harmon, not mustered.

Quartermasters—Daniel C. Livingston, resigned August 22, 1863; John D. Blanchard, mustered out October 2, 1865.

Surgeons—Horatio S. Hendee, resigned February 18, 1864; Norman L. Snow, mustered out October 2, 1865.

Assistant Surgeons.—James L. Alexander, resigned August 9, 1863; Frederick D. Vanderhoof, failed to muster; Norman L. Snow, promoted surgeon April 14, 1864; James Sweeney, mustered out October 2, 1865.

Chaplain.—J. Henry Enders, mustered out October 2, 1865.

Officers Company B.—Captain, Robert R. Meredith, Mohawk; first lieutenant, John A. Wandelaer, Palatine; second lieutenant, Mason H. Stewart, Mohawk; sergeants, Richard Loucks, Palatine; Herman A. Foster, Palatine; Martin Cooley, Mohawk; Edward Doherty, Mohawk; Charles S. Woodward, Mohawk; corporals, Oscar Lasher, Palatine; Hamilton D. Seaman, Mohawk; David H. Quackenbush, Palatine; Ezra Van Slyck, Palatine; Abram Van Husen, Mohawk; Andrew Cluplif, Palatine; James Fancher, Mohawk; Henry P. Searles, Mohawk; musician, John W. Bauder, Mohawk.

Privates, Mohawk.—James Ash, John H. Austin, John Barringer, Reqa Carajja, Nicholas Coons, Charles Cromwell, John H. Doxtader, Thomas Donnelly, Amaziah Eacker, Smith Galloway, Edward Gates, E. Adam Glenar, Gabriel Henry, Richard Hart, David Haverly, Herman Hime, John Hoffman, James Hopkins, Andrew Lantman, Cornelius P. Lansing, Henry L. Leitt, Byron Leffer, Wm. R. McGee, Martin Nealon, Georam Piatti, Michael Regali, Joseph Reistle, Peter Reijja, Anthony Sheridan, Samuel Tomlinson, James H. Van Dusen, James S. Veeder, John D. Vrooman, Joseph Van Ness, James Welch, John White, George Wilder, David Wilder, Garrett Youngjohn.

Palatine.—Jerome B. Austin, Phineas Brigham, Shadrack Brower, John Coppernoll, John Colson, Wm. Cuplif, David Dornberg, John Eacker, Isaac Graff, Lewis Grape, Conrad Hinkle, Maus Haverly, Frederick Linde, Frederick Luck, Joseph Peiler, Henry Smith, Lewis Thompson, John P. Volmer, Hiram Vandewarker, Jacob Van Allen, Bower Van Wie, Wm. S. Waffle, George Wakeman, Simeon Waterman, Abraham Wich, James J. Williams.

Root—Peter Barringer, Harmon Haverly.

Florida—Simeon Phillips.

Amsterdam—Henry Young.

Officers Company C.—Captain, Wm. H. Printup; first lieutenant, Peter E. Houck; second lieutenant, Charles F. Putnam; sergeants, James B. Neill, Glen, promoted to captain; Wm. J. Munsell, Florida; Cornelius T. Burns, Glen; John Conway, Root; Martin Wood, Glen; corporals, Wm. H. Wiers, Glen; Hiram B. Kent, Florida; Patrick H. Minch, Glen; John W. Scoop, Florida; Jay L. Huginin, Glen; Lorenzo Lisdell, Florida; Milan Pierce, Glen; George G. Grimshaw, Florida; musicians, Alfred S. Davis, Glen; James Davis, Glen; wagoner, Daniel J. McLaughlin, Mohawk.

Privates, Glen.—Ezra T. Austin, Charles F. Bowman, Christopher B. Clute, Alex. Cornell, Jacob P. Cogshall, John B. Cogshall, Peter Carson, Wm. Foody, Wade Getman, John Hunt, Amst Hugo, Henry Hawkins, Arthur O. Jones, Peter Leighton, P. P. Lynch, Patrick McGarvin, John McGuire, John Murray, Samuel M. Murdock, Timothy Morris, George Miller, Andrew Newkirk, James Newkirk, John S. Putnam, Valentine Polhammer, Wm. Quinn, W. E. Quackenbush (trans-

ferred to navy), Jacob Stewart, Henry J. Soules, John Sharon, Abraham B. Swart, John H. Stillwell, Carroll Smith, Lewis D. Van Alstyne, Peter Vischer, Martin Wagner, Christian Wessels, Lewis Wessels.

Florida—James L. Callen, John Cronan, Walter Cleaver, John Carr, Abram Dinehart, James Davis, John C. Davis, Daniel Fisher, John Graff, John Guile, Andrew J. Hare, David Haganin, John Hills, George Kyle, Benjamin F. Lisdell, Lorenzo Lisdell, Abram F. Lewis, Wm. Lawyer, John M. Mitchell, Wm. A. Miller, Melvin Peck, James W. Peck, Benjamin Pangburn, John H. Reese, Daniel P. Reese, Cornelius H. Van Sickler, James H. Wilson.

Root—John Carson, Wm. Hazard, Michael Hynds, Peter J. Kellar, Martin Minch, George Minch, Myndert Quackenbush, Frederick Quackenbush, Webber W. Rowe, Daniel Smith, Moses J. Tompkins, John J. Vanderveer.

Charleston—Samuel Brum, Charles H. Hammon, Wm. H. Starin, Solomon H. Sharp.

Residence unknown—John Chambers, S. M. Carle, Delos Clark, A. P. Duell, James Fancher, F. Holden, E. Holden, A. F. Johnson, Walter Lasher, R. A. McClain, A. H. Mott, J. C. Quackenbush, Jacob Smith, C. P. Van Antwerp, W. H. Wires.

Officers Company E.—Captain, Jacob C. Klock, Fonda; first lieutenant, Harvey C. Ward, Fonda; second lieutenant, Ansel W. Porter, Fonda; sergeants, George H. Hagadorn, Minden; John H. Howard, Minden; Henry A. Nellis, Minden; James C. Bullock, Minden; Benoni R. Dolan, Minden; corporals, Adam Getman, James Walrath, Andrew Gordon, George Swarts, Arnold V. Lasher, David Rose, Martin V. B. Ashley, Jacob Casler, all of Minden; musician, George Morey, St. Johnsville.

Privates from Minden—George Armstrong, Martin Bopple, Joseph Bopple, Henry Bigelow, Charles Brammer, Byron Cole, Alonzo Coppernoll, Joseph Dunn, John H. Empie, Earle Farrell, James Graham, Paul Gaul, Jacob Geesler, Wm. B. Holkirk, Charles B. Hubbell, Christian Hutritz, Wm. Knowles, Henry C. Keesler, Peter Kirsch, Adam Keesler, Enoch H. Lashley, James Lynch, John P. Miller, George Magadue, Charles Martin, Mulford March, Leonard Miller, Wm. H. North, Marvin Planck, John Phenas, Wm. Sheffield, Fred Sanger,

Charles P. Saulisbury, Charles Slae, Stephen Stehle, Ferdinand Smith, Henry H. Sanders, James Smith, Thomas W. Tweedle, Charles Wendt, Frederick Walster, Levi Winne, Albert Waufle, Christian Walster, John C. Waterman, Edward Wagener, Conrad C. Winne, John H. Gordon, Lyman Zimmerman.

St. Johnsville—Joseph Cook, John Dysling, jr., Nicholas Ecker, John C. Grabenstine, John E. Hellegass, Patrick H. Howard, John Klinkhart, Wm. Miller, John Moore, Sylvester Ritter, Jacob H. Walrath, Marvin F. Wilsey.

Root—John Donnelly, Warren Headley, Enoch Perrine, Wesley Spore, Henry Smith, Levi Sillenback, Christian Swartz, Matthew Smith, David Smith.

Canajoharie—Charles Sharp.

Officers Company F.—Captain, Isaac S. Van Woerts, Fonda; first lieutenant, Frank W. C. Fox, Fonda; second lieutenant, John H. Lassel, Fonda; sergeants, John G. Porter, Canajoharie; Elnathan McPhee, Canajoharie; corporals, Robert R. Abling, Joseph Stone, Canajoharie; musicians, Andrew F. Johnson, Mohawk; Wm. H. Roberts, Canajoharie.

Privates, Canajoharie.—Harrison Abeling, John Abeling, Henry Boline, Robert Boyd, Richard Bierman, William Dingman, John Fitz Simmons, Augustus Hilkey, Anton Keeler, Frederick Lutter, Henry Muerz, John Stehle, Harvey Shoudy, George W. Turner, John Ward.

Root.—George W. Bundy (died in Virginia), Thomas Casey, John Lee.

Florida.—Andrew Ryne.

Officers of Company G.—Captain, George H. McLaughlin, Fonda; first lieutenant, Edward Parkinson, Fonda; second lieutenant, George W. Hazard, Fonda; musician, Joseph L. Ritchie, Root.

Privates.—Peter McRea, Fonda; James McNiel, Canajoharie; Stephen Wiley, Root; Lyons Wakeman, Root.

FIRST REGIMENT LIGHT ARTILLERY.

The Montgomery county contribution to the First regiment of Artillery was embraced in Company K, otherwise known as the "Fort Plain Battery," which, as its name indicates, was chiefly recruited at Fort

Plain, but some of its men were from the towns of Stockbridge, Jasper, Elmira and Canandaigua. Battery K was mustered into service for three years at Albany on November 20, 1861. On the 15th of December its surplus men were transferred to other batteries of the regiment.

The Fort Plain Battery served at Washington and in the same military district until May 27, 1862, and then (at Harper's Ferry), joined the Second brigade, Siegel's division, being a branch of the great Army of the Potomac, where it remained until June 26, 1862. It was with the Twelfth corps from that time until May 12, 1863, and was then transferred to the Reserve artillery, and remained in that connection until March, 1864. The additional service of the battery was with the Twenty-second corps in the defense of Washington. On the 20th day of June, 1865, at Elmira, being then commanded by Captain Stocking, Battery K was honorably discharged and mustered out.

The service of the First was light artillery and by batteries in the Army of the Potomac, also in the Army of Virginia, of the Cumberland, and of Georgia, and was of such a detached character that the official record of battles of the local battery cannot be separated from those of other batteries of the regiment, for which reason we are unable to furnish them to our readers.

Officers of Battery K.—Captain, Lorenzo Crounse; first lieutenant, S. Walter Stocking; second lieutenant, Angell Matthewson; first sergeant, George W. Fox; quartermaster sergeant, William J. Canfield; sergeants, Mosher Marion, Charles Keller; corporals, Phelps Conover, Aden G. Voorhees, Gottlieb Ludwig, William E. Smith, Horatio Fox, Henry Tabor; bugler, George W. Beardsley; artificer, Clark Burtiss; wagoner, Martin Sitts.

Privates.—Peter Bennett, Jesse Bennett, Elisha D. Bennett, George H. Billington, Peter Baziel, Albert Burtiss, Hiram Brown, William Brownrigg, George W. Christman, Myron Carter, James Coine, Ambrose Dyslin, Azariah Dyslin, William H. Drum, John H. Dievendorff, John B. Ellsworth, George Edick, Edward Enghamer, Henry Fricke, George W. Fort, Solomon Goodbread, Loren A. Green, Rufus Gallup, John Henniger, James Hanley, Jeremiah Holmes, Francis H. Johnson, Delos M. Johnson, Lyman P. Kneiskern, Jacob Kaufman, Francis Kelsey,

John Kelly, John Litner, Philo Monk, John Mattice, William H. Nestell, Azariah Nellis, William Nestell, Robert Parr, Russell W. Rogers, William J. Reynolds, Josiah Rockafellow, John Stevens, George Smith, Richard Shannon, John Trickey, George Walrath, Alexander Waterman, Matthew White.

THIRTEENTH REGIMENT HEAVY ARTILLERY.

The Montgomery county enlistment in this regiment was quite small, its total being only thirty-four men, who were scattered through Companies E, F, and G. On May 11, 1863, the War Department authorized Col. William A. Howard to organize the regiment in New York. The men who had already been recruited by Maj. H. B. Williams for the Eleventh New York Volunteer artillery, but not assigned to companies, were transferred to this command, which was strengthened by also receiving the men enlisted for the proposed Twenty-ninth New York Volunteer Infantry, and for the Thirty-sixth Independent Battery of New York Heavy Artillery. The new levies were mustered into service for three years, but the regiment also contained some one year enlistments. The command in fact included men from all parts of the state. The regiment was mustered in by companies as soon as recruited during the latter part of 1863 and the early part of 1864, and its service in the field was of such a detached character that no regular narrative of its history can be given, except that found in its list of engagements. When the short term men were mustered out the remainder were consolidated, so that some of the companies lost their identity.

Official record of the battles of the Thirteenth.—Operations against Petersburg and Richmond, May 5 and 31, 1864; before Petersburg, June 15, 1864, and April 2, 1865; assault on Petersburg, June 15 and 17, 1864; Swift Creek, October 7, 1864; Day's Point, November 14 and 19, 1864; Fort Fisher, December 25, 1864 and January 15, 1865; fall of Petersburg, April 2, 1865.

Roll of Montgomery County.—*Company E*.—Christopher L. Conrad, F. Hout, J. Lousborge, of Amsterdam; H. Cole, J. H. Ellis, D. H. Nothaway, of Florida; H. C. Topping, B. W. Watson, of Palatine.

Company F.—Nicholas Bernard, J. Coniton, of Amsterdam; P. H. Becker, B. W. Gilbourne, W. H. Russell, of Root; G. Buchanan, T.

Sterling, George Stewart, F. Styles, of Florida; J. Brady, S. Blyth, C. Forbes, of Palatine: W. B. Bowdish, James J. Bassett, M. C. Barlow, W. H. Colgrove, Delos B. Denise, J. E. Hemstreet, P. McGuire, David Pier, A. M. Scott, A. W. Vanderwarker, of Charleston; Z. Smith, of Glen; S. Orton, of St. Johnsville.

Company G.—J. E. Wiggins, of Amsterdam.

FOURTEENTH REGIMENT, HEAVY ARTILLERY.

In this regiment were three men in Company C from Amsterdam, viz.: H. C. Ferguson, W. Hayes and W. Keep. In Company M was F. Hausman, of Amsterdam. The Montgomery county enlistment was so small that we are hardly required to give any history of the regiment, and therefore only mention the names of the men as above found.

SIXTEENTH REGIMENT, HEAVY ARTILLERY.

On the 19th of June, 1863, Col. Joseph J. Morrison was authorized by the war department to recruit an artillery regiment, which, when organized in the city of New York, was given the above designation. Companies F and H, to which the towns of Canajoharie, Minden and St. Johnsville contributed about thirty-five men, were mustered into service at Elmira. The Sixteenth left the state by detachments, the local companies in January, 1864. The regiment served as heavy artillery and infantry at Fortress Monroe, Yorktown and Gloucester Point, but was divided and sent on detached service during the greater part of 1864 and 1865. Company F, in which were several recruits from Canajoharie and St. Johnsville, was one of six companies that volunteered to General Butler to build the Dutch Gap canal, which work was begun August 9, 1864. The local troops, however, were withdrawn from this work after ten days. In July, 1865, the Sixteenth was united and commanded by Colonel Morrison. It was honorably discharged and mustered out of service August 31, 1865, at Washington.

Company F.—From Canajoharie—Abraham J. Allen, Julius Barlow, John D. Barlow, Samuel F. Bennett, Erastus W. Bowman, Cornelius E. Campbell, Charles H. Fuller, Thomas Nolan, Peter H. Riderick.

St. Johnsville.—Allen T. Dyslin, Daniel W. Hibbard, Daniel Hess, Lorenzo B. Hall, Samuel Knickerbocker, James L. Rodgers, William H. Smith, Clark E. Southerland, John W. Sheffer.

Company H.—From Canajoharie—George W. Hall, John Moyer, Jacob Real, Michael B. Ryan, Andrew Seevy, Michael Seevy.

Minden.—Dennis P. Canan, Charles C. Hagadorn, William Hagadorn, Henry H. Keller, Peter F. Lyke.

St. Johnsville.—John B. Churchill, John Fullen, John A. Kelley, De Witt Klock, Stephen Lousby.

IN OTHER COMMANDS.

It cannot be safely asserted that the foregoing rolls include the names of all the Montgomery county volunteers in service during the war of 1861-65. There were many men who left the county and enlisted in companies formed in other parts of the state, and were not, therefore, credited to their own town. The names of some of these have been obtained, but they are classified under the heading adopted above.

Independent Artillery, Battery Two.—From Amsterdam—J. Bleeck, J. A. Dawson, J. Davis, R. Dixon, G. Finn, George R. Lewis.

Battery Twenty-four.—J. Bartley, H. Plain, J. Billingham.

Second Veteran Cavalry, Company B.—H. Broadstreet, W. McCowart, C. Marsh, W. C. Putnam, D. Sykes, F. H. Styles, all of Amsterdam.

Twentieth Cavalry.—P. Winn, Minden, Company M; J. Shiel, Palatine, Company A; J. Benning, Root, Company B; C. Neall, Palatine, Company B; J. Constant, Root, Company D; S. McNeil, Root, Company D.

One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Regiment.—L. P. Ballard, A. J. Messenger, W. Storms, of Florida, all in Company B.

One Hundred and Twenty-first Regiment.—E. Burlingame, St. Johnsville, Company C.

Seventy-sixth Regiment.—John Dunn, John Maicos, both of Canajoharie, in Company K.

Miscellaneous.—N. Wormouth, Fort Plain, Company E, Sixth cavalry; W. Stanton, Fultonville, Company L, Fifteenth cavalry; G. J. Van Schaick, Amsterdam, Company E, First Mounted Rifles.

CHAPTER XVI.

Internal Improvements — Early Navigation of the Mohawk — The Inland Lock and Navigation Company — The Erie Canal — Railroad Building — The Montgomery County Agricultural Society.

FOR nearly two centuries, says a contemporary writer, the Mohawk river above Schenectady has been navigable for small craft; first by the Indians with canoes, followed by the merchants of the east and the traders of the frontier in the transportation of wares into the Genesee country. The navigation of the river, however, was impeded by the falls (Little Falls so-called), to overcome which both goods and boats were required to be carried a distance of about one mile. By the establishment also of a carrying place, superseded by a canal, between the Mohawk and Wood creek, and by utilizing the waters of Oneida lake, the pioneer bateaux carried merchandise from Albany to Oswego. For many years this was the chief means of travel from the east to the west, families, household goods and supplies being carried by water, while horses and cattle were driven along the state road passing through the Mohawk valley. The first transportation boats were called bateaux, having a carrying capacity of from one to three tons, and were superseded by the Durham boats, capable of carrying ten or fifteen tons.

In 1782 the Inland Lock and Navigation Company was incorporated, the design being to remove river obstructions and build locks at Little Falls, at German Flats and also at Rome. To this was to be added a canal between the Mohawk and Wood creek, thus furnishing an unimpeded water route between the east and west part of the state. General Philip Schuyler was the principal promoter of this enterprise and associated with him were several Mohawk and Hudson valley capitalists. During the operations of the company, the old bateaux were replaced by the more modern Durham boats, but however beneficial this method of transportation may have been, it was soon superseded by a still more important enterprise, and one which has continued in uninterrupted use to the present time—the Erie canal. It is uncertain

who originated the idea of constructing this grand water communication through the state, as all previous efforts had been directed to the maintenance of the method attempted by the navigation company.

It may be said, however, that in 1800 Gouverneur Morris suggested the idea of a direct canal from Lake Erie to the Hudson, his plan being to tap the lake and thence have a continuous slope to the high lands bordering on the Hudson, with a series of locks thence to the river. He unfolded his plan to the surveyor-general (Simeon De Witt), but the latter considered it impracticable. Soon afterward De Witt in a conversation with James Geddes (then a land surveyor of Onondaga county), mentioned the Morris plan as one of the new schemes which had been advanced. Mr. Geddes, however, looked at the matter in a different light and after reflection concluded that with some modifications, it was by far the best plan that had been suggested. He consulted Jesse Hawley, and the latter published a series of articles signed "Hercules," which were the first ever printed in favor of the Erie Canal. In 1808 Joshua Forman, member of assembly, introduced a resolution for the survey of a canal route, to the end that congress might be induced to grant money for the construction of a canal; and the legislature at the same time appropriated \$600 for surveys, which service was entrusted to Mr. Geddes, who was directed to level down from Oneida lake to the mouth of Salmon creek, to ascertain whether a canal could be opened from Oswego falls to lake Ontario, and also to survey the best route for a canal around Niagara falls. He was also directed to survey a route eastward from lake Ontario to Genesee river and thence to the waters following east to Seneca lake. Mr. Geddes' report showed the practicability of the last named route, and the project at once excited general attention, and secured the influence of De Witt Clinton (then senator), and of many other prominent men. In 1810 commissioners, with Clinton at their head, were appointed to explore a canal route through the centre of the state, and on April 8, 1811, an act was passed to provide for the improvement of internal navigation, to aid which application was made to the general government, but without success. The report of the commissioners stated the importance of the measure with such eloquence that a law was passed the next year continuing the commission and also authorizing it to borrow money and take cessions

of land, but the war temporarily caused a suspension of active work until 1816, when another act authorized a more definite survey. The canal was begun at Rome July 4, 1817, and on October 22, 1819, the first boat passed from that village to Utica. The entire work was finished October 26, 1825, at a total cost of \$7,143,789.86. As first constructed the canal was 363 miles long, twenty-eight feet wide at the bottom and forty feet at the top, and four feet deep. Its enlargement was ordered May 11, 1835.

As the first boat, with Governor Clinton on board, entered the canal at Buffalo on October 26, 1825, a line of cannon, previously arranged a few miles apart, fired signals to Albany and down the Hudson to Sandy Hook, whence they were returned in the same manner. The commissioners under whom the Erie canal was constructed were Stephen Van Rensselaer, De Witt Clinton, Joseph Ellicott, Samuel Young, and Myron Holley, William C. Bouck being added to this number in 1821. The chief engineers were James Geddes and Benjamin Wright, neither of whom had ever before seen a canal, or even had the means of acquiring any other knowledge of engineering except that obtained from surveying land. The precision with which their surveys were executed, under such circumstances, has been regarded as truly wonderful. The canal was great for its day, but progress demanded a still greater advance, which was soon developed by the use of the iron horse.

The Mohawk and Hudson railroad, connecting Albany and Schenectady, led to the Utica and Schenectady railroad, organized April 29, 1833, with a capital of \$2,000,000, its object being to build and operate a line of railroad between the two last mentioned cities. The incorporation of the Utica and Schenectady company was the first step toward the construction of a railroad through Montgomery county, and hence was an event of unusual importance in local history. The first board of directors, among whom were names familiar in Montgomery county, was as follows: Erastus Corning, John Townsend, Lewis Benedict, James Porter, Alonzo C. Paige, Tobias A. Stoutenburgh, Nathaniel S. Benton, Nicholas Devereaux, Henry Seymour, Alfred Munson, James Hooker, John Mason and Churchill C. Cambreling. The work of constructing the road was begun soon after the organization and completed, and it was opened for transportation on August 1, 1836.

In 1853 there were in operation several railroads owned by various stock companies, forming a continuous line of travel from New York to Buffalo through the Hudson and Mohawk river valleys and the Genesee country. In the year 1853, by virtue of an act of the legislature, these companies were consolidated under the name of the New York Central Railroad Company, which became owners and lessees of the entire line. The latter, by various changes, modifications and processes of law, is now known as the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company. The advantages derived by the people of this country from the construction and operation of this road are so well understood that comment is unnecessary. The same company is also the lessee of the West Shore road, built during 1882 and 1883, and then known as the New York, West Shore and Buffalo railroad. It was intended to compete with the Central-Hudson, and was operated in this manner for several years, but was finally absorbed by the latter.

The early success of the Utica and Schenectady railroad led the people of Johnstown and Gloversville to also organize a similar enterprise, it being highly important for these places to have rapid and easy access to the Mohawk valley road. To this end the Johnstown Railroad Company was incorporated, May 13, 1836, with a capital of \$75,000; but it proved unsuccessful and many a year elapsed before the scheme was in operation. It was not, indeed, until 1870 that a railroad connected Gloversville and the Mohawk valley.

The Fonda, Johnstown and Gloversville Railroad Company, to which reference is now made, was organized June 16, 1867, and after overcoming many obstacles succeeded in completing their track at the lapse of three years. It connects with the Central-Hudson at Fonda, the same depot being used by both companies. It may here be added that the Gloversville and Northville Railroad Company (whose line is a continuation of the F., J. and G. road) was organized in 1872, and completed road in 1875.

In the present connection we may properly recall some of the railroads which have been laid out through Montgomery county, but which never got beyond the mere project. One was the Fish House and Amsterdam Railroad Company, organized April 26, 1832, the object being to build a track between the two places above mentioned; its

capital was \$250,000, but after the plan had been drawn no work was ever done.

Another was the Catskill and Canajoharie Railroad Company which was organized April 19, 1830, with a capital of \$600,000, the object being to build a track from Catskill to Canajoharie. It was built from Catskill to Cooksburg at a cost of \$400,000, but in 1842 it was abandoned and the road bed was sold.

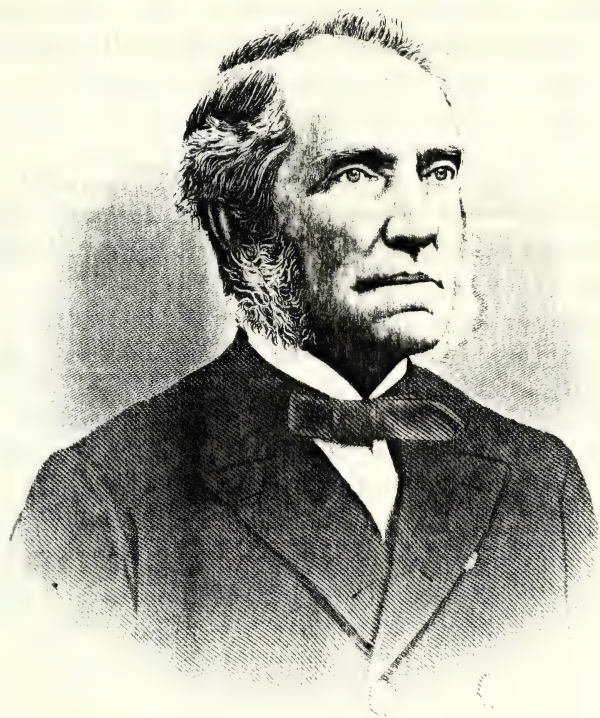
The Mohawk Valley Railroad Company was organized January 11, 1851, having a capital of \$2,000,000. It proposed to build a road between Utica and Schenectady, but nothing was done beyond making surveys.

To return to agriculture, it may be said that the earliest efforts of nearly all of the pioneers of the Mohawk valley were directed to agricultural pursuits, for like all first settlers, they were poor in purse and dependent almost wholly upon the products of the soil. As farmers, their ideas were primitive, and the suggestion of improvement, either in implements or in the grade of stock, found little encouragement. They were, however, a sturdy, industrious people, living entirely within their means and controlled by their inherited customs. Hence they were not easily led by the notions of new comers, however beneficial the latter really may have been. Even Sir William found much difficulty in superseding old customs, and on one occasion, in 1765, expressed himself thus in a letter to the English Society for the Promotion of Arts: "The state of agriculture in the country is very low, and in short likely to remain so, to the great detriment of the province, which otherwise might draw many resources from so extensive and valuable a country; but the turn of the old settlers here is not much calculated for improvement; content with the mere necessities of life, they don't choose to purchase its superfluities at the expense of labor, neither will they hazard the smallest matter for the most reasonable prospect of gain, and this principle will probably subsist as long as that of their equality, which is at present at such a pitch that the conduct of one neighbor can but little influence that of another."

It may be said, however, that whatever doubt the baronet may have entertained concerning improvement among the original settlers, a substantial progress was made in agriculture by their thrifty descendants

and by the enterprising New Englanders who occupied the region soon after the revolution. During the closing years of the last century, the state made some provision for improvement in agriculture, but it yielded no profitable results until 1801, when the territory of the state was divided into agricultural districts (each county comprising one) and a secretary appointed for each, whose duty was to inquire into the condition of the farmers and report to the central head of the society. Premiums were awarded for superiority in certain products, but the crops were apparently of secondary importance. In 1819, however, an appropriation was made by the state, for distribution among the counties, to promote both agriculture and domestic manufactures, but how the funds were divided and what awards were made cannot be ascertained. In the same year also, an agricultural society was formed at Johnstown of which Henry F. Cox was president, and James McIntyre secretary. The first annual fair was held October 12, and each year afterward until the division of the county, when the society became a Fulton county institution, while that formed a few years later at Fonda was virtually a new organization.

In 1841 the state appropriated \$40,000, part of which was used to reorganize the state agricultural society, and the other part for division among the societies for the promotion of agricultural pursuits. Under the provisions of the act of 1841, the Montgomery County Agricultural Society was organized, but this did not take place until September 20, 1844. At a meeting then held at the court-house in Fonda the first officers and directors were elected as follows: President, Tunis I. Vanderveer; vice-president, Joshua Reed, Peter H. Fonda; secretary, John Frey; treasurer, John Nellis; directors, Benedict Arnold, Amsterdam; Robert Baird, Charlestown; Jeremiah W. Gardner, Canajoharie; Lawrence Servoss, Florida; Richard Hudson, Glen; Barney Becker, Minden; Lyndes Jones, Mohawk; Wm. Snell, Palatine; George Spraker, Root; John Y. Edwards, St. Johnsville. The first fair was held on the court-house grounds on the 11th and 12th of November, 1844, and for the next three years at the same place. The fifth and twelfth fairs were held at Canajoharie; the tenth at Fort Plain; the eleventh at St. Johnsville. In 1856 Fonda was designated as a permanent location for the annual meetings, and in 1863 part of the old Van Horne estate was



W. L. Saunders

purchased, upon which was erected suitable buildings, while a half mile racing and exhibiting track was added to complete the grounds. Since then the fairs have been considered successful, the attendance being usually large and the receipts sufficient not only to enable the society to meet all obligations but to enlarge its grounds and erect thereon more spacious exhibiting halls. Present officers: Stephen Sanford, president; T. B. Vanderveer, Wm. Clark, vice-presidents; Wm. Wiles, treasurer; George L. Davis, secretary; L. A. Starin, J. B. Snow, G. M. Vorhees, executive committee; directors, John T. De Graff, Stephen Collins, John V. Sweet, Amsterdam; A. C. Phillips, 1st Ward; Edward McDonald, 2d Ward; Dr. Wm. H. Robb, 3d Ward; David Mathias, 4th Ward; George Vanderveer, 5th Ward of Amsterdam city; A. B. Miller, Ephraim Lipe, Lewis Bierbauer, Canajoharie; P. A. Dingman, M. S. Holmes, J. N. Morford, Charleston; James Herrick, Hiram Schuyler, Frank McClumpha, Florida; Ira Vanderveer, John Edwards, J. H. Faulkner, Glen; F. L. Bauder, Abram Dievendorf, David G. Hackney, Minden; George Ingersoll, John W. Wilson, Robert L. Bearcroft, Mohawk; John P. Snell, John W. Nellis, Jacob Saltsman, Palatine; Jacob Dievendorf, George Dillenbeck, Charles Dievendorf, Root; Peter F. Nellis, Abram I. Klock, Alfred Niles, St. Johnsville.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE LEGAL PROFESSION IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

THE sentiment is commonly expressed that the judicial system of the state of New York is largely copied from the common law of England. This is true in many respects, and such resemblances are frequent, but a close study of the history of the laws and judicial practice of this state will reveal the fact that they are in many respects an original growth. This is strikingly manifested in the simple matter of entitling a criminal process. In this state it is the people versus the criminal; in England it is rex versus the criminal. In the one the requirement is an independent judiciary responsible to the people only; in the other it is a court subservient to a king.

This great idea of the sovereignty of the people, even over our laws, has had a slow, conservative, yet progressive and systematic unfolding of the germ into organism. In the early history of the state the governor was in effect the maker, interpreter, as well as executor of the laws. He was the chief judge of the court of final resort, while his councillors were generally his subservient followers. The execution of English and colonial statutes rested with him, as did also the exercise of royal authority in the province; and it was not until the adoption of the first constitution in 1777, that he ceased to contend for these prerogatives and to act as though the only functions of the court and councillors were to do his bidding as servants, while the legislature should adopt only such laws as the executive should suggest and approve. By the first constitution the governor was entirely stripped of the judicial power which he possessed under the colonial rule, and this power was vested in the lieutenant-governor and the senate, also in the chancellor and justices of the Supreme Court; the former to be elected by the people, and the latter to be appointed by the council. Under this constitution there was the first radical separation of the judicial and legislative powers and the advancement of the judiciary to a position of a co-ordinate department of the government, and subject only to the limitation consequent upon the appointment of its members by the council. This restriction, however, was soon felt to be incompatible, though it was not until the adoption of the constitution of 1846 that the last connection between the purely political and judicial parts of state government was abolished, and with it disappeared the last remaining relic of the colonial period. From this time the judiciary became more directly representative of the people. The development of the idea of the responsibility of the courts to the people, from the time when all its members were at the beck of an irresponsible master, to the time when all judges (even of the court of last resort), are voted for directly by the people, has been indeed remarkable.

Let us now look briefly at the present arrangement and powers of the courts of the state, and then at the elements from which they have grown. The whole scheme is involved in the idea of first a trial before a magistrate and jury—arbiters, respectively, of law and fact—and then a review by a higher tribunal of the facts and law, and ultimately of the

law by a court of last resort. To accomplish the purposes of this scheme there has been devised and established, first, the present Court of Appeals, the ultimate tribunal of the state, perfected in its present form by the convention of 1867 and '68, and ratified by a vote of the people in 1869; and taking the place of the old court for the trial of impeachments and correction of errors. The Court of Appeals as first organized under the constitution of 1846, was composed of eight judges, four of whom were elected by the people and the remainder chosen from the justices of the Supreme Court having the shortest time to serve. As reorganized in 1869 and now existing, the court consists of a chief judge and six associate judges, who hold office for the term of fourteen years.

This court is continually in session at the capital in Albany, except as it takes a recess on its own motion. It has full power to correct or reverse the decisions of all inferior courts when brought before it for review. Five judges constitute a quorum, and four must concur to render judgment. If four do not agree the case must be reargued; but no more than two rehearings can be had, and if then four judges do not concur, the judgment of the court below stands affirmed. The legislature has provided how and when proceedings and decisions of inferior tribunals may be reviewed, and may in its discretion alter or amend the same. Upon the reorganization of the court in 1869, its work was far in arrears, and the law commonly known as the "judiciary act" provided for a commission of appeals to aid the Court of Appeals; and still more recently there has been organized a second division to assist in the distribution of the business of the general court caused by an overcrowded calendar.

Second to the Court of Appeals in rank and jurisdiction stands the Supreme Court, which is made up of many and widely different elements. It was originally created by act of the colonial legislature, May 6, 1691, and finally by order of the governor and council May 15, 1699, and was empowered to try all issues to the same extent as the English courts of King's Bench, Common Pleas and Exchequer, except in the exercise of equity powers. It had jurisdiction in actions involving one hundred dollars and over, and to revise and correct the decisions of inferior courts. An appeal lay from it to the governor and council. The

judges, of whom at first there were five, made an annual circuit of the county, under a commission issued by the governor, and giving them *nisi prius*, oyer and terminer, and jail delivery powers. Under the first constitution the court was reorganized, the judges being then named by the council of appointment, and all proceedings were directed to be entitled in the name of the people.

By the constitution of 1821, many and important changes were made in the character and methods of the court. The judges were reduced to three, and appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate, to hold office during good behavior, or until sixty years of age. They were removable by the legislature on the vote of two-thirds of the assembly and a majority of the senate. Four times a year the full court sat in review of their decisions upon questions of law. By the constitution of 1846 the Supreme Court was abolished, and a new court of the same name and having general jurisdiction in law and equity was established in its place. This court was divided into General Term, Circuits, Special Terms and Oyer and Terminer. Its members were composed of thirty-three justices to be elected by the people, and to reside five in the first and four in each of the seven other judicial districts into which the state was divided. By the judiciary act of 1847, general terms were to be held at least once in each year in counties having more than 40,000 inhabitants, and in other counties once in two years; and at least two special terms and two circuits were to be held yearly in each county except Hamilton. By this act the court was authorized to name the times and places of holding its terms, and those of the Oyer and Terminer, the latter being a part of the Circuit Court, and held by the justice, the county judge and two justices of sessions. Since 1882 the Oyer and Terminer consists of a single justice of the Supreme Court.

The Court of Chancery of the State of New York was an heirloom of the colonial period, and it had its origin in the Court of Assizes, the latter being invested with equity powers under the duke's laws. The court was established in 1683, and the governor (or such person as he should appoint), assisted by the council, was designated as its chancellor. In 1698 the court went out of existence by limitation; was revived by ordinance in 1701; suspended in 1703 and re-estab-

lished the next year. At first the Court of Chancery was unpopular in the province, the assembly and the colonists opposing it with the argument that the crown had no authority to establish an equity court in the colony.

Under the constitution of 1777 the court was recognized, but its chancellor was prohibited from holding any other office except delegate to congress upon special occasions. Upon the reorganization of the court in 1778, masters and examiners in chancery were provided to be appointed by the council of appointment; while registers and clerks were appointed by the chancellor, and the latter licensed all solicitors and counselors of the court. Under the constitution of 1821 the chancellor was appointed by the governor and held office during good behavior or until sixty years of age. Appeals lay from the Chancery Court to the Court for the Correction of Errors.

Under the second constitution equity powers were vested in the circuit judges, and their decisions were reviewable on appeal to the chancellor. This equity character, however, was soon taken from the circuit judges, and the duties devolved upon the chancellor, while the judges referred to acted as vice-chancellors in their respective circuits. The constitution of 1846 abolished the Court of Chancery, and its powers and duties were vested in the Supreme Court,

By an act of the legislature passed in 1848 and entitled the "Code of Procedure," all distinctions between actions at law and suits in equity were abolished, so far as the manner of commencing and conducting the same was concerned, and one uniform method of practice in all actions was provided. Under this act appeals lay to the general term of the Supreme Court from judgments rendered in justice's, mayor's or recorder's and county courts, and from all orders and decisions of a justice at special term or circuit, and from judgments rendered at any trial term of the Supreme Court.

The judiciary article of the constitution of 1846 was amended in 1869, the legislature being authorized to provide (not more often than once in five years) for the organization of general terms consisting of a presiding justice and not more than three associates, but by Chapter 408 of the laws of 1770, the then organization of the general terms was abrogated, and the state was divided into four departments, and provision

made for holding general terms in each. By the same act the governor was directed to designate from the justices of the Supreme Court, a presiding justice and two associates to constitute a general term in each department. Under the authority of the constitutional amendment adopted in 1882, the legislature, in 1883, divided the state into five judicial departments, and provided for the election of twelve additional justices to hold office from the first Monday in June, 1884.

In June, 1877, the legislature enacted the code of civil procedure to take the place of the code of 1848. By this many minor changes in the practice of the court were made, among them a provision that every two years the justices of the general terms and the chief judges of the superior city courts should meet and revise and establish general rules of practice for all the courts of record in the state, except the Court of Appeals.

These are, in brief, the changes through which the Supreme Court has passed in its growth from the prerogative of an irresponsible governor to one of the most independent and enlightened instrumentalities for the protection and attainment of the rights of citizens of which any nation, ancient or modern, can boast. So well is this fact understood by the people that by far the greater amount of business which might be done in inferior courts at less expense, is actually taken to this court for settlement.

Next in inferiority to the Supreme Court is the County Court, held in and for each county in the state at such times and places as its judges may direct. This court had its origin in the English Court of Sessions, and like it had at first only criminal jurisdiction. By an act passed in 1683 a Court of Sessions, having power to try both civil and criminal causes by jury, was directed to be held by three justices of the peace in each of the counties of the province twice a year, with an additional term in Albany and two in New York. By the act of 1691, and the decree of 1669, all civil jurisdiction was taken from this court and conferred on the Common Pleas. By the sweeping changes made by the constitution of 1846, provision was made for a County Court in each county of the state, except New York, to be held by an officer to be designated "the County Judge," and to have such jurisdiction as the legislature might prescribe.



D. P. Cury

Under the authority of this constitution county courts have, from time to time, been given jurisdiction in various classes of actions, and have also been invested with certain equity powers in the foreclosure of mortgages and the sale of infants' real estate, and also to partition lands and to admeasure dower and care for the persons and estates of lunatics and habitual drunkards. The judiciary act of 1869 continued the existing jurisdiction in all actions in which the defendant lived within the county and the damages claimed did not exceed one thousand dollars.

Like the Supreme Court, the County Court now has its civil and criminal sides. In criminal matters the county judge is assisted by two justices of sessions, elected by the people from among the justices of the peace in the county. It is in the criminal branch of this court, known as the "Sessions," that the minor criminal offenses are now disposed of. All indictments, except for murder or some very serious felony, are sent to it for trial from the Oyer and Terminer. By the codes of 1848 and 1877 the methods and procedure and practice are made to conform as nearly as possible to the practice of the Supreme Court. This was done with the evident design of attracting litigation into these minor courts, and thus relieving the Supreme Court. In this purpose, however, there has been an evident failure, as litigants much prefer the broader powers of the Supreme Court. By the judiciary act the term of office of county judges was extended from four to six years. Under the code the judges can perform some of the duties of a justice of the Supreme Court at chambers. The County Court has appellate jurisdiction over actions arising in Justice's Courts and Courts of Special Sessions. Appeals lay from the County Court direct to the General Term.

Surrogate's Courts, one of which exists in each county of the state, are now courts of record, having a seal, and their especial jurisdiction is the settlement and care of estates, both of infants and also of the dead. The derivation of the powers and practice of these courts is from the Ecclesiastical Court of England, also through a part of the Colonial Council which existed during the rule of the Dutch, and exercised its authority in accordance with the Dutch Roman law, the custom of Amsterdam and the law of Aasdom, the Court of Burgomasters and Schep-

ens, the Court of Orphan Masters, the Mayor's Court, the Prerogative Court and the Court of Probates.

The settlement of estates and the guardianship of orphans, which was at first vested in the director general and Council of New Netherland, was transferred to the burgomasters in 1653, and soon after to the orphans' masters. Under the colony the Prerogative Court controlled all matters in relation to the probate of wills and settlement of estates. This power continued until 1692, when, by act of legislation, all probates and granting of letters of administration were to be under the hand of the governor or his delegates, and two freeholders were appointed in each town to take charge of the estates of persons dying intestate. Under the duke's laws this duty had been performed by the constables, overseers, and justices of each town. In 1778 the governor was divested of all this power, except the appointment of surrogate, and it was conferred upon the judges of the Court of Probates.

Under the first constitution surrogates were appointed by the Council of Appointment, but under the second constitution by the governor with the approval of the senate. The constitution of 1846 abolished the office of surrogate in all counties having less than forty thousand population, and conferred its powers and duties upon the county judge. By the Code of Civil Procedure surrogates were invested with all the necessary powers to carry out the equitable and incidental requirements of their office. In its present form, with weekly sessions, this court affords a cheap and expeditious medium for the care and settlement of estates and the guardianship of infants.

The only remaining courts which are common to the whole state are the Special Sessions, held by a justice of the peace for the trial of minor criminal offenses, and also Justice's Courts with a limited civil jurisdiction. Previous to the constitution of 1821 (modified in 1826), justices of the peace were appointed, but since that time they have been elected. The office and its duties are descended from the English office of the same name, but are much less important, and under the laws of this state it is purely the creature of the statute.

This brief survey of the courts of New York, which omits only those that are local in character, gives the reader some idea of the machinery provided for the use of the members of the Bench and Bar at the time

of the creation of Tryon county in 1772, and Montgomery county in 1784.

The organization of the courts in old Tryon county was an event of great importance in local history. The creation of the county itself was, as has been mentioned, due to the influence of Sir William Johnson, and he likewise named the officers first appointed to administer its affairs. The first members of the court were as follows: Guy Johnson, judge; John Butler and Peter Conyne, judges; Sir John Johnson, Daniel Claus, John Wells and Jelles Fonda, assistant judges; John Collins, Joseph Chew, Adam Loucks, John Frey Young and Peter Ten Broeck, justices.

On the formation of Tryon county Johnstown was naturally designated its seat of justice, and during the same year (1772) the court-house and jail were erected. The removal of the county seat from Johnstown, in 1836, became a public necessity, and a general demand led to the selection of Fonda as the new capital of Montgomery.

Fonda Court-House.—This building, which will soon be abandoned because of the noise occasioned by the cars, has some very interesting associations. It was erected in 1836, and a tablet in the wall mentions Howland Fish, Aaron C. Whitlock and Henry Adams as commissioners who superintended the work. The entire expense of the court-house and jail was \$15,000, which then was a large sum. This court-house has witnessed some very important trials, among which was the Putman ejectment case in which both Nicholas Hill and John Van Buren displayed their forensic abilities. One of the most interesting scenes however, was a trial in which a man, who, though not a professional lawyer, plead his own case in the most masterly manner, and to heighten the importance of the occasion it may be added that the person referred to was the novelist, J. Fenimore Cooper. He had prosecuted a Coopers-town editor for libel, and the venue had been changed to Montgomery county because of the bitter prejudice against the author at home. Cooper presented a grand appearance as he stood before the court, six feet high and finely proportioned, with a massive head and a cultivated face, and his address to the jury showed that he had fine power of oratory. The defence was conducted by Joshua Spencer of Utica, who was very eloquent, but the unfortunate editor had no chance of escape under

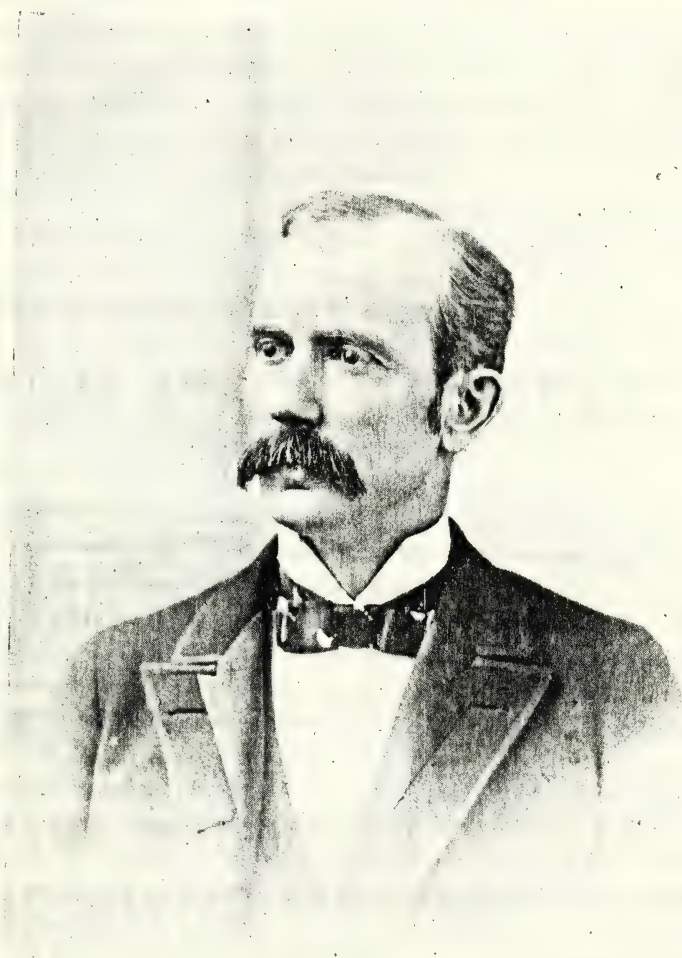
the unjust interpretation of the law which then prevailed. Cooper was triumphant, but his victory cost him more in loss of popularity than the amount of his petty verdict.

The court house, as has been said, will be abandoned, but may be turned to other uses and is too fine a building to be destroyed. It is really the best specimen of Ionic architecture in the state, next to the custom-house in New York.

Previous to the removal from Johnstown to Fonda the greater part of the lawyers of Montgomery county were residents of the first mentioned place. Hence we shall now briefly refer to some of those whose professional and public life rendered them prominent.

Recollections of the Old Bar.—The bar of Montgomery county has ever been noted for its strength. On the bench, as well as pleading in the courts have been men of the highest professional character and of great moral worth. Among the leading legal minds of this state Montgomery county has furnished a liberal proportion, many of whom have attained distinction and some eminence. They were indeed characterized by strict integrity as well as rare ability—qualities which have given them a high standard, not only in our courts, but also in the legislative halls both of the state and the nation.

Foremost among the leading lawyers of the county, and one of the most noted in the state during the early years of the present century was Daniel Cady, a native of Columbia county, born in April, 1773. He read law with John Wentworth, at Albany and was admitted to the state courts in 1795, after which he found Johnstown a suitable field for his profession, and became at once the acknowledged leader of the bar, a position he justly maintained throughout the long period of his practice. In 1808 he was elected to the assembly and re-elected in 1809–11–12–13. In 1814 he was elected to congress, and in 1847 and 1849 to the Supreme Court. The rival candidate for judicial honors was Judge Fine, a lawyer of ability and popularity, but Judge Cady's great strength gave but little chance to any opposition. Judge Cady had two sons who died early in life, and six daughters, all of whom were characterized by more than usual intellectual endowment, and one of whom—Elizabeth Cady Stanton—has reached prominence in discussing some of the leading questions of the day. When first elected to the bench



Wm. W. T. M.

Judge Cady had passed his seventieth year, but at his second election he was seventy-seven. He resigned his office in 1855 and died five years later, on October 30, 1859.

Henry Cunningham was one of the most brilliant young advocates at the bar of the county, but his life was too short for the full developments of his mental resources. His greatest prominence was attained during his term in the assembly (session of 1824), in his bold and masterly defence of De Witt Clinton, who was removed by a political cabal from the board of canal commissioners.

Benjamin Chamberlain was prominent among the Johnstown lawyers for many years. He erected in 1816 the finest brick house in the county, which is still standing, and though no longer used as a dwelling still retains its ancient dignity. Donald McIntyre who became the first judge of Fulton county, was a student in Mr. Chamberlain's office. Later on Mr. McIntyre moved to Ann Arbor, but afterward returned to Johnstown and engaged in banking. His last days, however, were passed in Ann Arbor.

William I. Dodge, who was for many years noted both in the legal and political world, was a native of Johnstown. He was member of the state convention in 1821, and was also elected to the state senate. Later on he removed to Syracuse, where he died.

Charles McVean, who was born and bred in Johnstown, studied law with William I. Dodge, and succeeded him in the district attorneyship. He was elected to congress in 1832, serving during the session of 1833-35. He removed to New York, where he became surrogate, but he died before the expiration of his office.

Edward Bayard, a member of the historic family of that name, married a daughter of Daniel Cady, and became a member of the Montgomery county bar. Later on, however, he exchanged law for medicine and having removed to New York attained high rank in his profession. He died September 28, 1869.

Daniel Paris and Mathias B. Hildreth were prominent Montgomery county lawyers during the early part of the present century. The former was son of Isaac Paris who was slain at Oriskany. He served a term in the state senate and wielded great influence while member of the council of appointments. Later on he removed to Troy but he died

in New York. Mathias B. Hildreth became attorney-general, and his business led him to the state capital, but he died in Johnstown, and his grave may be seen in the old cemetery.

Aaron Haring came from New Jersey and was for many years a prominent member of the bar, being at one time chief judge of the Common Pleas. His office stood for half a century on the court-house lot and as he reached an advanced age, he is remembered by many of the older citizens.

Abraham Morrell was also a noted lawyer and he held the office of judge of the Common Pleas for many years. He was a zealous politician, and was the first to raise a hickory pole in Johnstown, which took place on Jackson's second presidential canvass in 1832.

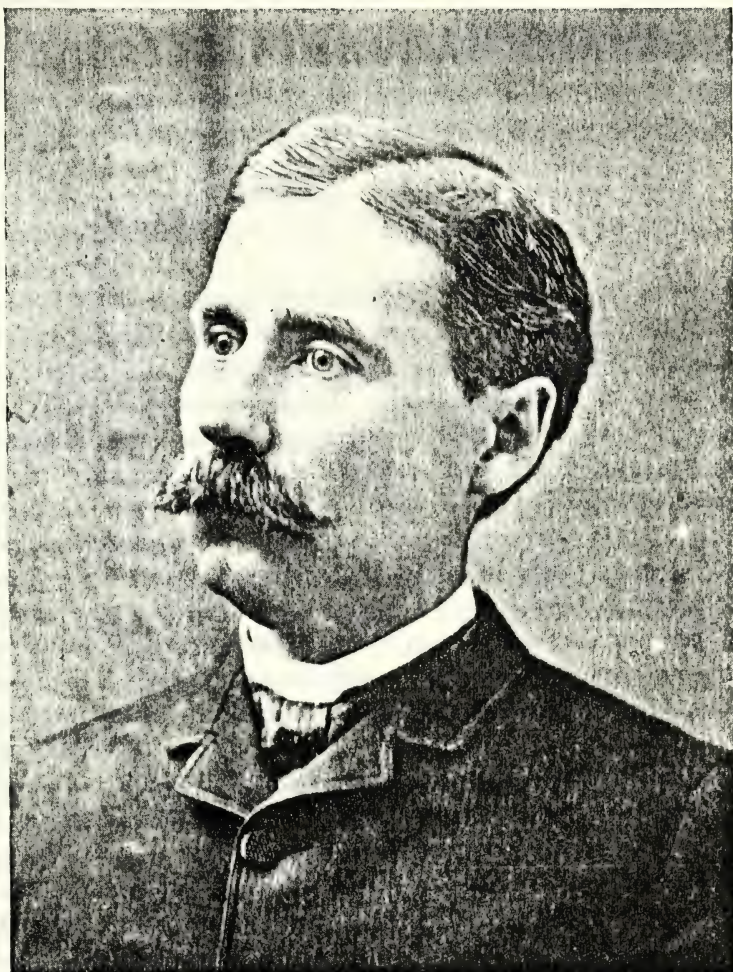
Peter Brooks came from Herkimer and was brother-in-law of Captain George I. Eacker who killed Philip Hamilton in a duel. Mr. Brooks passed a large part of his life in Johnstown, where he built an elegant house.

James L. Veeder was born at Fonda, where his parents lived for many years and reared a large and respectable family. He was educated at Union college, and after graduating pursued legal study with Austin Yates. He was admitted and began the practice of his profession at Fonda, but removed to Johnstown where his prospects were highly favorable. His career, however, was brought to an untimely close by typhoid fever.

Hezkiah Baker was an old attorney at St. Johnsville and in 1853-54 and again in 1857 was in the assembly, being then a leader of the Whig party. He was a self made man, a good lawyer and fearlessly honest in the performance of duty. In 1868 he was elected district attorney. He died in St. Johnsville quite recently.

John Darrow, of Fort Plain, was one of the leading lawyers of the county during his time and was appointed judge of the Common Pleas February 15, 1846. He died many years ago.

Peter J. Wagner was born in Palatine in 1795, and was the son of Joseph Wagner who settled in Minden in 1805. He became one of the leading lawyers of the county and represented this district in congress in the sessions of 1839-41. He died at Fort Plain at an advanced age.



N. W. Borst

Henry Adams was originally a merchant, but preferred the law in which he won an enviable position. He practiced for many years at Fort Plain and then moved to New Jersey, where he died.

Peter J. Webster, of Fort Plain, more commonly known as Colonel Webster, a militia title, was the son of Dr. Joshua Webster, and a native of Minden. He was a bright lawyer and was elected district attorney in 1853. He is remembered as a kind-hearted man as well as a popular advocate.

James Genter, also of Fort Plain, is remembered as a careful, plodding attorney of early days, when the profession was more laborious than profitable.

George Yost was a native of Johnstown. He studied law with Daniel Cady who made him a business partner. Eventually Mr. Yost removed to Fort Plain where he attained wealth and professional distinction and was elected county judge. He died in 1888.

Lorenzo Crounse was the law parner of Peter J. Wagner. He was in practice in 1850, but afterwards left the county and became prominent in politics in the west, being in 1892 the Republican candidate for governor of Nebraska.

David Eacker was a prominent lawyer and public man in Canajoharie many years ago, being a strong Whig and of much influence in his party. He was commonly called "Judge" Eacker, probably as associate judge in the Common Pleas. He had two sons, Josiah and Charles, both lawyers, the former removing to Wisconsin and the latter to New York.

Thomas B. Mitchell, of Canajoharie, was a lawyer of ability. He gained much popularity in the county, and was four times elected senator, 1843-44-45-46. Later on he removed to Schenectady, continuing practice there, and it is said that whenever he was engaged in the trial of a cause the college students always came to the court-house to observe his peculiar manner.

John Cummings was practicing law at Canajoharie when the county seat was removed to Fonda, and was among the older lawyers of the county at that time.

In recalling the names of former legal practitioners of Canajoharie we should also mention James H. Cook and George Smith, the former of

whom was elected county judge in 1867. Mr. Smith removed to Amsterdam, where he died several years ago.

Phineas Randall, who lived and practiced law at Ames, six miles south of Canajoharie, was one of the old lawyers of the county, and judge of the Common Pleas in 1841, his predecessor being Abraham Morrell, and his successor John Darrow. He was the father of Alexander W. Randall, at one time governor of Wisconsin, also postmaster-general under President Lincoln. Also he was the father of Edwin M. Randall, who was justice of the Supreme Court of Florida during the reconstruction period.

Among the old legal practioners at Palatine Bridge we can recall the names Henry Loucks and John Frey, both able lawyers, who did good service in their day.

Isaac Tiffany was one of the old bar, and a resident of Fultonville. He studied law with Aaron Burr, and had many reminiscences of that famous character.

Cornelius Putnam was a lawyer of Glen village, and had a large local influence.

Giles F. Van Vechten also practiced in the same town, and was the last of the appointed surrogates of the county, his appointment dating April 1, 1843. In 1845 he was elected county clerk; later on he removed to New York, where he died in 1889.

Howland Fish was a native of Dutchess county, and descended from a family prominent in the revolution. He was educated at Yale and then studied law at Hudson. Later on he became law partner with Aaron Haring at Johnstown, where he was also appointed postmaster. He was a member of the constitutional convention in 1821, and represented the county several times in the legislature. He was also one of the commissioners appointed to erect the court-house and jail after their removal from Johnstown. The largest part of his life was spent in Fultonville, where he was for many years the leading counsellor.

Frothingham Fish, son of the above, pursued the same profession in which he attained great eminence. He has always been a Montgomery county man, and occupies the house and office erected by his father. The best proof of his abilities is found in the fact that he was elected justice of the Supreme Court and was an honor to the bench. Judge

Fish also twice represented the county in the legislature. He has passed his entire professional life in Fultonville, where he has acquired wealth and public respect.

Robert Bronk Fish, son of the above, was educated at Union college and studied law with his father. He has held the office of district attorney and is still engaged in the practice of his profession.

Leonard F. Fish, who is the youngest of the judge's sons, is also engaged in law practice and occupies the same office, which has thus served three generations of the same profession.

Daniel G. Lobdell, a native of Johnstown, studied law with William I. Dodge and later on became a partner with Alonzo Adams, of Fort Plain, where he died in 1875.

Nicholas Hill was born at the old Hill farm (as it is still called) near Minaville. He read law with Phineas Randall and was noted for application. His ambition, indeed, rendered legal service his pastime as well as study. Later on he studied with the once famous Judge Cowen, whose office he left to begin practice, first at Amsterdam, and afterwards at Albany. His progress at the bar was rapid and yet not more so than had been predicted by those who had marked his early promise. He reached the highest position in his profession, being at last the most powerful practitioner before the Court of Appeals. In the language of Charles O'Connor he "held the first place in the bar of the state." He died May 5, 1859, in his fifty-fourth year, and was buried in the Albany cemetery.

Marcus T. Reynolds was also a noted member of the Montgomery county bar. He reached distinction while practicing in Amsterdam and afterward removed to Albany, where he held pre-eminence until removed by death.

Deodatus Wright was also a distinguished member of the Montgomery county bar. He lived in Amsterdam, but afterward followed the above mentioned example and removed to Albany where he was made judge of the Supreme Court. Platt Potter, who also began his profession in this county, removed to Schenectady where he, too, reached a position on the Supreme Court bench. Alfred Conkling, who lived at Canajoharie, was also a noted member of the Montgomery county bar. He was elected to congress, and later on was appointed judge of the United States Court. He was the father of Roscoe Conkling.

Garrett L. Roof was also a prominent member of the Montgomery county bar, being at one time district attorney. He eventually exchanged the legal for the clerical profession, in which he labored for many years with much success. He died at West Troy where he passed his last years in retirement.

David Sacia was also numbered among the old members of the Montgomery county bar, and was a man of highly respectable ability.

Samuel Belding, jr., was one of the earliest lawyers of Amsterdam, and was the first county judge under the constitution of 1846. He was partner with Clark B. Cochrane, and brother-in-law to Nicholas Hill.

Solomon P. Heath was another prominent lawyer of the same place, and was elected member of the assembly in 1850, and also county judge in 1871.

Richard H. Cushney was born in the town of Johnstown (now Mohawk) in 1809, and was educated in the common schools, and the Cambridge and Johnstown Academies, after which he studied law with William I. Dodge, and was admitted to the bar in 1831. During his legal studies Mr. Cushney was deputy in the office of county clerk (George D. Ferguson) and remained in this service until 1837, when he removed to Fonda, holding the same office in the new county seat.

Judge Cushney began law practice in 1831, and continues in professional service, being the oldest lawyer in Montgomery county, and one of the oldest in the Mohawk valley. He has been a Democrat since attaining his majority, and held a number of public offices. He was appointed surrogate July 17, 1838, holding until April 1, 1843, and in November, 1859, he was elected county judge, and served with acknowledged ability. He also assisted in founding the Mohawk River Bank, and has always been its legal adviser, and for a long time has held the office of vice-president.

The Present Bar.—In both personal character and professional ability the bench and bar of Montgomery county always held distinction, and did our space permit the subject would be entitled to more extended notice. Under such a limitation, however, our record will only include personal mention of the members of the present bar of the county; in which determination we are supported by the profession in general, and its younger representatives in particular, who have yet to make their

life records, and who feel that extended mention belongs more appropriately to the close of labor than to its beginning.

In Montgomery county there is a great variety of business interests, and hence there is a fair prospect of success on the part of any energetic lawyer; and while the legal business of a county ordinarily centers at its county seat, in this county the seat of justice happens to be located in a comparatively small village, which offers but little inducement to a lawyer. Amsterdam, Canajoharie and Fort Plain are the leading places in the county, and as a result the greatest number of practicing attorneys are there, and yet Fonda, Fultonville and St. Johnsville have their fair proportion of lawyers.

Lawyers of Amsterdam—Howard Putman, John F. Collins, W. B. Dunlap, George S. Dievendorff, A. B. Flansburg, W. Davidson Jones, John G. Maxwell, E. J. Maxwell, Charles S. Nesbitt, Richard Peck, L. H. Reynolds, Robert J. Sanson, Martin L. Stover, Lawrence A. Serviss, Walter L. Van Denbergh, L. S. Westbrook, Henry V. Borst, E. J. Perkins, John K. Warnick, George B. White, E. P. White, C. P. Winegar, Hicks B. Waldron, Harry Sherburn, Henry V. Burke, Archie R. Conover, J. Howard Hanson, Homer J. Sullivan, John W. Eighthmy, Thomas F. C. Clary.

Canajoharie—J. F. Hazleton, Harvey Dunkel, Brownell C. Fox, Hiram L. Huston, Newton J. Herrick, D. S. Morrell, B. F. Spraker, David Spraker, Frazer Spraker, W. H. Van Steenbergh, John C. Wheeler, Charles W. Wheeler, William A. Williams.

Fort Plain—James E. Dewey, H. M. Eldredge, Irving Moyer, Aionzo Lewis, George E. Phillips, Dewitt C. Shults, E. S. Van Deusen, L. M. Weller, J. L. Moore, John D. Wendell, John S. Yost.

Fonda—Richard H. Cushney, Henry B. Cushney, J. S. Sitterly, Daniel Yost, S. W. Putman.

Fultonville—G. M. Albøt, Frothingham Fish, R. Bronk Fish, Leonard F. Fish, Thomas R. Horton.

St. Johnsville.—Frank B. Towman.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

THE medical profession of Montgomery county has preserved but little of its history, and while there are a few meagre records by which we may learn the proceedings and membership of the medical societies that have been formed (one of them dating back to the early years of this century), there are no data upon which can be based a history of the development of the profession. The great advance in all branches of art and science during the last century has indeed been marvelous, but in none has there been greater progress than in medicine and in surgery.

This science which now does so much to ameliorate suffering, began with Hippocrates nearly twenty-three hundred years ago, and he first treated of medicine with the simplest remedies, relying chiefly on the healing powers of nature. He wrote extensively, and some of his works have been a foundation for the succeeding literature of the profession. The greatest advance in medical science, however, has been made during the last one hundred years, and chiefly during the last half century. Physiologists no longer believe (as did the practitioners of the sixteenth century), that the planets have a direct and controlling action on the body, or that the sun operates on the heart and the moon upon the brain; nor do they now believe that the vital spirits are prepared in the brain by distillation. On the contrary, modern physiology teaches that the phenomena of the living body are the results of physical and chemical changes; the temperature of the blood is now ascertained by the thermometer, and the different fluids and gases of the body are analyzed by the chemist, giving to each its own properties and functions.

Botanists are now acquainted with 150,000 plants, of which a large proportion are constantly being added to the already appalling list of new remedies. Many of the latter possess little if any virtue, yet by liberal advertising they hold a place in nearly every drug store. The



Joseph N. White M.D.

ancients were not so well supplied with drugs, and hence they resorted to other methods. For instance, it is said that the Babylonians exposed their sick to the view of passers-by in order to learn of them whether they had been afflicted with a like distemper, and by what remedies they had been cured. It was also a custom of those days for all persons who had been sick to put up (on their recovery) a tablet in the temple of Esculapius, whereon they gave an account of the remedies by which they had been restored. Prior to Hippocrates all medicines were administered by priests and were associated with numerous superstitions, such as charms, amulets and incantations; sympathetic ointments were applied to the weapon with which a wound had been made; human or horse flesh was used for the cure of epilepsy, and convulsions were treated with human brains. It may be added that the credulous superstition of early ages has not been fully eradicated, even by the advanced education of the present day. One of the latest appeals to the credulity of the masses is the so-called "Christian Science," and also "Faith Cure," but so long as filth brings fever, prayer will be of no avail, and those who advocate such a method of cure are either self-deceived or are basely deceiving others.

It is not our purpose, however, to treat of ancient or even modern medical history, and though a review of the progress in this science from the time of the Egyptian medical deities, or the Greek or Roman medical mythology, would be very interesting as well as instructive, it is not pertinent to the medical history of Montgomery county, and our introductory observations indeed are merely to suggest to the reader the difference between the ancient and modern means of healing.

The settlement of the region now included in Montgomery county began soon after the year 1700, but progressed slowly during the first half century. The country was then an almost unbroken wilderness, except as occasional improvements had been made by the Germans in the Mohawk valley. At that time, and indeed at any time for a century afterward, the facilities for obtaining a medical education were very limited. The state of New York, unlike New England and Pennsylvania, had done very little to encourage science, and there were no schools of medicine worthy of the name nearer than Boston or Philadelphia. Few young men could then afford to go so far to qualify themselves for

a profession which offered but little pecuniary inducement, hence the prevailing custom was for the medical aspirant to enter the office of some neighboring physician and read for two or three years, at the same time accompanying his tutor in his professional visits and learn his methods of practice. At the end of the term the young doctor would seek some promising vacancy and begin practice.

The legislation which then regulated the admission and practice of physicians was so defective as to be really worthless. In 1806, however, an act was passed repealing all former laws in reference to the profession and at the same time authorizing a general State Medical Society and also county societies.

The Montgomery County Medical society.—In 1806 the legislature of New York passed an act for the incorporation of medical societies in each county of the state, in pursuance of which the Montgomery County Medical Society was organized on the first Tuesday in July of the same year. The meeting was held at the court house in Johnstown, at which time there were present Alexander Sheldon, Oliver Lathrop, Stephen Reynolds, Wm. H. Devoe, Wm. Reid, Benjamin Tucker, Horace Barnum and Abraham Sternbergh. The officers then chosen were Alexander Sheldon, president; Wm. Reid, vice-president; Stephen Reynolds, secretary; Oliver Lathrop, treasurer; Alexander Sheldon, Stephen Reynolds, and Benjamin Tucker were appointed a committee to prepare by-laws for the government of the society, and their report was made on October 15 following.

The first page of the records of the society contains a roll of its members under the caption of "Catalogue of Members of the Montgomery Medical Society," but as no date is given it is difficult to decide whether the names thus recorded were those of original members. They were as follows: Alexander Sheldon, Stephen Reynolds, Edmund G. Rawson, Elijah Cheadle, Daniel Curk, Wm. A. Reid, Oliver Lathrop, Jonathan Eights, Joshua Webster, Benjamin Tucker, Wm. H. Devoe, Abraham Sternbergh, Horace Barnum, Jonas Farr, Thomas Conklin, Christian Stisser, Simeon Massey, Daniel Ayers, Benjamin Lyon, John Esmond, Ichabod Thompson, Richard Davis, jr., Thomas C. Kenton, Orvis Johnson, Asa Rice, Frederick Garrett, John Atwater, Josiah T. Betts, Samuel Voorhees, Wm. Brown, John Holmes, Daniel C. Johnson, Elijah

Hanchett, John Delamater, Samuel Maxwell, James W. Miller, Lebeus Doty, Moses Johnson. In explanation of this "catalogue" we may state that it is quite doubtful if all the physicians thus named were in the county in 1806; not that the county (which included Fulton) was not sufficiently large for such a number, but it is thought that some names may have been added at a later date. This list, however, will recall nearly all the early physicians of the county, some of whom are still remembered by the old residents.

In 1838 the division of the county required a reorganization of the society, the first officers elected after that event being Daniel Ayers, president; Zadoc Barney, vice-president; Abraham T. E. Hilton, secretary; Morgan Snyder, treasurer. In 1840 the members of the society were as follows: Daniel Ayers, John Atwater, Zadoc Barney, Thompson Burton, Henry H. Belding, James Dievendorf, Richard Davis, Lebeus Doty, ——— Graves, Abraham T. E. Hilton, Erastus Holmes, David E. Houghtaling, Wm. H. Johnson, Simeon Marcy, Ezra A. Mulford, John D. Mathews, Uriah Potter, Abraham Puling, John W. Riggs, Wm. Smith, Simeon Snow, Morgan Snyder, Jacob G. Snell, Joseph D. Stewart, Samuel Voorhees, Joshua Webster, Joseph White, Aaron W. Hall, John L. St. John, Abraham J. Arndt, George Beakley, John W. Sterling, Abel Lyons, Leonard Proctor, Charles Dievendorf, Alex. Ayers, Gilbert H. Brownell, Jeremiah Snell, Davis L. Carroll, W. E. Riess, I. I. Buckbee, W. H. Biggam, Jacob H. Dockstader, Henry H. Biggam.

Present Members.—Douglas Ayers, E. F. Bronk, C. W. De Baun, W. H. De Lamater, J. R. Fairbanks, S. H. French, Ezra Graves, T. Hyland, R. G. Johnson, C. M. Klock, H. M. Leach, S. D. Lewis, D. M. McMartin, W. J. Peddie, H. W. Post, W. R. Pierce, W. H. Robb, E. E. Rulison, F. E. Simons, A. V. H. Smythe, Charles Stover, P. L. Suits, D. M. Taylor, C. F. Timmerman, C. C. Vedder, S. A. Wessels, H. L. Furbeck, G. G. Lewis, Augusta A. Steadman, E. T. Rulison, John W. Kniskern.

Presidents of the Society.—Alexander Sheldon, 1806; Wm. H. Reid 1807; Jonathan Eights, 1808; Stephen Reynolds, 1809–11; Joshua Webster, 1812; Alex. Sheldon, 1813; Daniel Curk, 1814; Elijah Cheadle, 1815; Edmund G. Rawson, 1816; Alex. Sheldon, 1817;

Stephen Reynolds, 1818; Samuel Maxwell, 1819; Daniel Ayers, 1820; Joshua Webster, 1821-2; Lemuel C. Paine, 1823; James W. Miller, 1824; John Atwater, 1825-6; Oran Johnson, 1827; Lebbeus Doty, 1828; Abraham Puling, 1829; Wm. Carlisle, 1830; Wm. Chalmers, 1831; Lemuel C. Paine, 1832-3; Daniel Ayers, 1834; Wm. G. Comstock, 1835; Morgan Snyder, 1836; James W. Miller, 1837; Daniel Ayers, 1838; Simeon Snow, 1839; Joseph White, 1840; John D. Mathews, 1841; James Dievendorf, 1842; Uriah Potter, 1843; Joseph White, 1844; J. D. Mathews, 1845; Davis L. Carroll, 1846; Henry H. Bel-
ding, 1847; Simeon Snow, 1848; Jacob Myers, 1849; Thompson Burton, 1850; Jacob G. Snell, 1851; E. B. Etherge, 1852; Uriah Potter, 1853-4; D. L. Carroll, 1855; Alex. Ayers, 1856; no record 1857; John Parr, 1858; no record 1859; J. Burdick, 1860; no record 1861; Norman L. Snow, 1862; no record 1863; I. I. Buckbee, 1864; J. H. Stafford, 1865; Darwin Potter, 1866; D. Ayers, 1867; Jeremiah Snell, 1868; Wm. Robb, 1869; J. Snell, 1870; Frank G. Buckbee, 1871; J. G. Snell, 1872; W. H. Biggam, 1873; Morgan Snyder, 1874; W. N. Curtis, 1875; Alex. Ayers, 1876; Dr. Scoon, 1877; C. A. Dievendorf, 1878; D. M. Taylor, 1879; C. C. Vedder, 1880; Morgan Snyder, 1881; S. H. French, 1882; James A. Smeallie, 1883; Wm. H. Biggam, jr., 1884; Alonzo Putman, 1885; Timmerman Wessels, 1886; D. M. McMartin, 1887; C. M. Klock, 1888; E. T. Rulison, 1889; Charles Stover, 1890; H. M. Leach, 1891.

Present Officers.—H. M. Leach, president; S. D. Lewis, vice-president; C. W. De Baun, secretary and treasurer.

Under an act of the legislature passed in 1880, each physician in the county (and in each county in the state) was required to register in the office of the county clerk his name, place of birth, residence, date of diploma, and the institution from which he was graduated, and the authority by which he claimed the right to practice medicine in the county. In compliance with the requirements of the act there has been a very general registration by the physicians of this county, and in order to bring to the attention of the reader the names of as many as possible of the past and present practitioners, we extract from the records the names, with other data referred to, of those legally qualified to practice medicine in Montgomery county since the above law was passed:



Isreal S. Buckner

Horatio Gilbert, Canajoharie ; born in Ephratah ; diploma December 24, 1867, from Albany Medical College.

J. J. Miller, Charleston ; born in Lansing, Tompkins county ; diploma December 26, 1871, from Albany Medical College.

Charles I. Conover, Charleston Four Corners ; born in Glen ; diploma February 3, 1878, from Albany Medical College.

Peter L. Suits, Tribes Hill ; born in Palatine ; diploma February 4, 1879, from Albany Medical College.

J. A. Smeallie, Canajoharie ; born in Princetown, Schenectady county ; diploma February 14, 1879, from Albany Medical College.

William W. D. Parsons, Fultonville ; born in Newark, N. J. ; diploma March 22, 1852, from New York Medical College.

Frank G. Buckbee, Fonda ; born in Saratoga county ; diploma December 26, 1871, from Albany Medical College.

Horace M. Leach, Glen ; born Morristown, St. Lawrence county ; diploma February 28, 1876, from the Hospital College of Medicine, Louisville, Ky.

William H. Biggam, Charleston ; born in Charleston ; diploma February 25, 1841, from Albany Medical College.

Elbert T. Rulison, Amsterdam ; born in Parish, Oswego county ; diploma December 23, 1875, from Albany Medical College.

Silas A. Wessels, Canajoharie ; born in Cherry Valley ; diploma March, 1878, from University of Michigan.

Dallas M. Taylor, Canajoharie ; born in Springfield, Otsego county ; diploma June 25, 1874, from Long Island College Hospital.

Erastus Holmes, Tribes Hill ; born in Kingston, Mass. ; diploma January 21, 1837, from Fairfield College, New York.

Oscar Joab Stafford, Canajoharie ; born in Canajoharie ; diploma February 26, 1878, from the University of Buffalo.

Jerome Shibley, Charleston ; born in Charleston ; diploma November 26, 1846, from the Castleton Medical College, Vt.

John Parr, Buel ; born in Ireland ; diploma March 1, 1859, from the medical department of the University of New York city.

William E. Keegan, Amsterdam ; born in Albany ; diploma March 3, 1880, from the Albany Medical College.

Charles Morris Klock, St. Johnsville ; born in St. Johnsville ; diploma February 15, 1876, from the University of the City of New York.

Alexander Ayres, Fort Plain; born in Oppenheim; diploma June 9, 1846, from Castleton Medical College, Vt.

Israel I. Buckbee, born in Clinton, Dutchess county; diploma February 7, 1841, from Albany Medical College.

John Sloat Beakley, born in Palatine Bridge; diploma March 1, 1868, from the New York Homeopathic Medical College.

Ambrose J. Eisenlord, Fort Plain; born in Minden; diploma July 10, 1871, from the University of the City of New York.

Frank Edgar Simons, Canajoharie; born in Phoenix, Oswego county; diploma January 29, 1879, from Albany Medical College.

Francis Oliver Cornell, Port Jackson; born in Glenville, Schenectady county; diploma March 3, 1880, from Albany Medical College.

Christian C. Vedder, St. Johnsville; born in St. Johnsville; diploma January 20, 1874, from Albany Medical College.

Salphronius H. French, Amsterdam; born in Lisle, Broome county; diploma December 11, 1859, from Albany Medical College.

Sylvester D. Lewis, Amsterdam; born in Ontario county; diploma December 24, 1866, from Albany Medical College.

James Kilbour Young, Rural Grove; born in Berne, Albany county; diploma December 22, 1874, from Albany Medical College.

William H. Robb, Amsterdam; born in Florida; diploma December, 1865, from Albany Medical College.

Joseph N. White, Amsterdam; born in Deerfield, Oneida county; diploma March 1, 1854, from Ohio Medical College.

John V. Riggs, Amsterdam; born in Schenectady; licensed September 21, 1880, by the Homeopathic Medical Society of Montgomery county.

Oscar Arthur Ellithorp, Palatine Bridge; born in Palatine; diploma March 1, 1880, from Albany Medical College.

Darwin Potter, Fort Plain; born in Minden; diploma January 24, 1860, from Geneva Medical College.

George P. Mallette, Sprout Brook; born in Canajoharie; diploma August 11, 1874, from the Eclectic Medical Society of Twenty-third Senate District of New York.

Morgan Snyder, Fort Plain; born in Marbletown, Ulster county; diploma April 3, 1833, from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia.



Wm H Cobb M.D.

Douglas Ayres, Fort Plain; born in East Creek; diploma January 7, 1865, from Albany Medical College.

Philip D. Palmer, Charleston; born in Charleston; diploma November 23, 1857, from Castleton Medical College, Vt.

Thomas J. Pettit, Fort Plain; born in town of Saratoga; diploma March, 1867, from New York Homeopathic College.

William Zoller, Fort Plain; born in Ogdensburg; diploma March 11, 1873, by the Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia.

James R. Fairbanks, Amsterdam; born in Pittsfield, Mass.; diploma October 16, 1866, from Berkshire Medical College.

Louis Von St. George, Canajoharie; born in Weilburg, Germany; diploma granted 1851 by the University of Geissen.

Charles Stover, Amsterdam; born in Cobleskill; diploma March 15, 1880, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Arthur V. H. Smith, Minaville; born in Swansea, Wales; diploma December 28, 1875, Albany Medical College.

Thompson Burton, Fultonville; born in Charleston; diploma June 17, 1835, Castleton Medical College, Vt.

Dan Small, St. Johnsville; born in Mohawk, Herkimer county; diploma March, 1860, from Albany Medical College.

James D. Snyder, Sharon; born in Sharon, Schoharie county; licensed August 10, 1874, by Eclectic Medical Society, Twenty-third Senatorial District of New York.

Alonzo Putman, Amsterdam; born in Glen; diploma September, 1851, from College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York city.

Joseph Burbeck, Canajoharie; born in Campton, N. H.; diploma January, 1828, from College of Medicine and Surgery, Fairfield, N. Y.

Daniel H. Patchen, Canajoharie; born in Westfield, Chautauqua county; diploma February, 1879, from Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago, Ill.

Ezra Graves, Amsterdam; born in Russia, Herkimer county; diploma February, 1865, from Buffalo Medical College.

Daniel M. McMartin, Amsterdam; born in Amsterdam; diploma March 1, 1877, from College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York city.

Horace S. Streeter, Palatine; born in Canajoharie; diploma 1861, Winchester Medical College, state of Virginia, and certificate from

Medical Examining Board, United States Army, dated August 20, 1864.

Almer A. Lyker, Rural Grove ; born in Root ; diploma February 3, 1878, Albany Medical College.

Charles Nellis, Palatine ; born in Palatine ; diploma March 10, 1881, from Bellevue Hospital Medical College.

Peter O. Eisenlord, Palatine ; born in Palatine ; diploma July, 1847, from the Medical University of the City of New York.

William H. Biggam, Charleston ; born in Charleston ; diploma May 13, 1881, from College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York city.

Newton F. Sweatman, Fultonville ; born in Sharon ; diploma December, 21, 1872, Albany Medical College.

George H. Ingraham, Amsterdam ; born in New York city ; diploma January 27, 1874, from the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati, O.

Franklin D. Clum, Amsterdam ; born in Saugerties, N. Y. ; diploma February 1875, from Yale Collège.

Eleazer E. Rulison, Amsterdam ; born in Parish, Oswego county ; diploma March 3, 1881, Albany Medical College.

Leonard A. Frazier, Amsterdam ; born in Slingerland ; diploma March 3, 1881, Albany Medical College.

John Vedder Riggs, Amsterdam ; born in Schenectady ; diploma February 22, 1881, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Buffalo.

Willard Gillett, St. Johnsville ; born in Cherry Valley ; diploma March, 1882, Albany Medical College.

William James Peddie, Fultonville ; born in Broadalbin ; diploma March 1, 1882, Albany Medical College.

Willard Hillegas, Hageman's Mills ; born in St. Johnsville ; diploma March 3, 1881, Albany Medical College.

Melancton Somers, Flat Creek ; born in Seward, Schoharie county ; diploma March 8, 1882, from United States Medical College.

Andrew P. Smith, Auries ; born in Starkville, Herkimer county ; licensed November 15, 1853, from Herkimer County Medical Society.

John Lewis Christian Rinke, Hageman's Mills ; born in Vonaka, Germany ; diploma from the Charity Hospital in Berlin, Prussia.

P. H. Dygert, Fort Plain ; born in Morristown, N. Y. ; diploma April, 1870, from the University of Philadelphia.

J. M. Winslow, Amsterdam ; born in Bennington, Vt. ; diploma February, 1873, College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York city.

R. G. Johnson, Amsterdam ; born in Minaville ; diploma April 13, 1883, University of Pennsylvania.

A. D. Hill, Akin ; born in Randolph, N. Y. ; diploma February, 1879, from Albany Medical College.

William G. Smeallie, Canajoharie ; born in Charlton, Saratoga county ; diploma September, 1883, University of Denver and Seminary of Colorado.

Jay D. Van Wirt, Canajoharie ; born in Ancram, Columbia county ; diploma March, 1873, from Albany Medical College.

William Howland, Maple Valley ; born in Pawling, Dutchess county ; licensed October 8, 1874, by the Eclectic Medical Society of the Twenty-third District.

Frank V. Brownell, Fort Plain ; born in Schenectady ; diploma March, 1882, Albany Medical College.

E. A. Akin, Buffalo ; born in Gallipolis, O. ; diploma March 2, 1869, from Miami Medical College.

Fred E. Easton, Fort Plain ; born in Ciderville ; diploma May 21, 1884, from Long Island College Hospital.

Charles F. Timmerman, Amsterdam ; born in Fonda ; diploma March, 1884, from Albany Medical College.

David Nelson Taylor, Amsterdam ; born in Albany ; diploma May 21, 1884, from Long Island College Hospital.

Franklin B. Smith ; born in Hillsdale, Mich. ; diploma February, 1879, from Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago.

J. Leslie Smith, Fort Plain ; born in Canajoharie ; diploma March 9, 1883, Albany Medical College.

James Alfred Barringer ; born in Schodack, Rennselaer county ; diploma February 25, 1873, from the University of Buffalo.

Edmund F. Bronk, Amsterdam ; born in New Baltimore, Greene county ; diploma March 3, 1884, Albany Medical College.

A. V. Klock, St. Johnsville, ; born in Glen ; diploma March 3, 1886, Albany Medical College.

William M. White, Amsterdam ; born in Amsterdam ; diploma March 3, 1886, Albany Medical College.

Edward M. Child, Fort Plain; born in Woodstock, Conn.; diploma March 10, 1877, University of the City of New York.

A. P. Casler, St. Johnsville; born in Minden; diploma March 3, 1880, Albany Medical College.

Cornelius Wells De Baun, Fonda; born in Niskayuna; diploma March 16, 1887, Albany Medical College.

J. Francis Moorehead; born in New York city; diploma March, 1883, University of the City of New York.

John P. Henry; born in Ireland; diploma March 6, 1886, University of the City of New York.

Henry C. Young; born in Sing Sing; diploma March 16, 1887, Albany Medical College.

Austin S. Moak; born in Sharon; diploma June 9, 1876, Bellevue College Hospital, New York city.

R. M. Andrews, Fort Hunter; born in Guilderland; diploma 1888, Albany Medical College.

O. F. McAvenue, Amsterdam; born in Little Falls; diploma March 16, 1887, Albany Medical College.

W. H. Lemrou, Amsterdam; born in Albany; diploma March 3, 1886, Albany Medical College.

I. Davis Ozmun, Canajoharie; born in South Lansing, N. Y.; diploma June, 1888, Syracuse Medical College.

John Charles Jackson, Fort Plain; born in Marcellus; diploma 1888, from New York Homœopathic Medical College.

Adelbert W. Witter, Fort Hunter; born in Albany county; diploma March 15, 1888, Albany Medical College.

Alonzo Barton Foster, Fonda; born in Waterford, Ontario; diploma April 12, 1888, New York Homœopathic College and Hospital, and April 12, 1887, from Trinity University, Toronto, Canada.

G. L. Myer, Stone Arabia; diploma June 20, 1877, University of Michigan.

Alonzo Galloway, born in New York city; diploma March 20, 1881, from Buffalo Medical College.

A. Marshall Burt, Nelliston; born Beacon Hill, Saratoga county; diploma March 21, 1889, Albany Medical College.

H. E. Shumway, St. Johnsville; born in Copenhagen, N. Y.; diploma March 12, 1889, University City of New York.

Benjamin F. French; born in Troy, O. ; diploma September 23, 1889, Hahnemann College, Philadelphia.

A. Walter Tryon, born in Durham, Greene county ; diploma, 1862, College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York.

I. N. Willard, born in Fairfield, N. Y. ; diploma November 18, 1875, Bellevue Hospital Medical College.

B Rush Jackson, Amsterdam ; born in Berwick, Pa. ; diploma, October, 15, 1884, from Philadelphia Electro Therapeutics.

Charles Williams Nichols, Amsterdam ; born in Fairfield, N. Y. ; diploma March 21, 1889, Albany Medical College.

Henry W. Post, Fultonville ; born in Brattleboro, Vt. ; diploma June 5, 1886, from University of Vermont.

William H. De Lamater, Minaville ; born in Mariaville ; diploma March 3, 1886, Albany Medical College.

Henry L. Furbeck, St. Johnsville ; born in Fonda ; diploma March 4, 1881, Albany Medical College.

Louis Akin, Akin ; born in Brooklyn ; diploma June 11, 1890, College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York.

Clark E. Congdon, Fort Plain ; born in Venice, N. Y. ; diploma March, 1890, Long Island College Hospital.

John Logan, born in Ireland ; diploma March 14, 1883, from Bellevue Hospital Medical College.

Horace M. Hicks, Amsterdam ; born in Delta, N. Y. ; diploma February, 1886, Chicago Homœopathic Medical College.

William R. Pierce, Amsterdam ; born in Amsterdam ; diploma May 5, 1884, from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Abram Baker Simmons, Amsterdam ; born in Cohoes ; diploma April 1, 1891, Albany Medical College.

Hamilton A. White, Fort Plain ; born in Richmondville ; diploma March 3, 1891, Albany Medical College.

George G. Lewis, Amsterdam ; born in Avoca, N. Y. ; diploma March, 1890, Albany Medical College.

John H. Shaper, Canajoharie ; born in Canajoharie ; diploma June 25, 1891, from University of Michigan.

Ward Beecher Saltsman, Fort Plain ; born in Palatine ; diploma April 1, 1891, Albany Medical College.

John Charles O'Brien, Amsterdam; born in Bellows Falls, Vt.; diploma July 13, 1887, from the University of Vermont.

Walter Adams Dunckel, Fort Plain; born in Fort Plain; diploma June 11, 1890, College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York.

Augusta Alice Steadman, Amsterdam; born in Nova Scotia; diploma May 31, 1831, from Woman's Medical College of New York Infirmary.

John W. Kniskern, Amsterdam; born in Carlisle, N. Y.; diploma March 31, 1890, Albany Medical College.

CHAPTER XIX.

THE TOWN OF AMSTERDAM.

IN 1772, soon after the creation of Tryon county, its vast and partially settled territory was divided into five provisional districts, the most easterly of which, called Mohawk, included the lands now in this town. In 1788 this district was divided and that portion north of the river was organized into a town and named Caughnawaga, after the ancient Indian village now within the limits of Fonda. Still another division was made in 1793 (March 12), by which old Caughnawaga yielded its territory to the formation of five new towns, Amsterdam, Johnstown, Mayfield, and Broadalbin, each of which was soon afterward fully organized, and then by an act passed April 8, 1838, Perth was created out of Amsterdam, leaving to the latter only 19,698 acres, whereas it previously contained more than 30,000 acres and was the largest town in Montgomery county.

Amsterdam is on the east border of the county, being bounded on the east by Saratoga county, by the Mohawk on the south, Perth on the north, and Mohawk on the west. Its lands are included within the fraudulently obtained Indian purchase that embraced 700,000 acres between the Hudson and Mohawk rivers, and to which was given the name Kayaderosseras. This purchase from the Mohawks was made

for a trifling consideration in 1703, and was afterward the occasion of a bitter controversy, which was only settled when Sir William Johnson, in 1768, interfered in behalf of the defrauded Indians whose lands were in part restored. The Kayaderosseras patent, granted November 2, 1708, to Naning Hermanse, and twelve associates, by Queen Anne, was much less in extent than the original patent of the same name, but like it, covered lands in Amsterdam and Perth. The name is said to have been derived from the stream afterward called Johnson's creek, it having its course near Mount Johnson, but originally it was the Kayaderosseras creek.

Among the other patents now in the town we may mention that made to Henry Hoofe and called the Hoofe patent, dated December 12, 1727, and including 539 acres bordering on the Mohawk. In April 22, 1703, however, Geralders Camfort obtained a patent for the "Camfort tract," (twenty acres) in what is now Amsterdam, and this was probably the first patent in the county. The Chatsandackte patent was granted to Ebenezer Wilson and John Abeel (the latter the father of "Cornplanter") on February 22, 1706, but it is quite certain that neither of these proprietors settled on the land at that time, for in 1716, Philip Groat purchased from the Mohawks "all the land between the creeks, being the site now occupied by Cranesville."

The principal street of the town is Chuctenunda, an Indian name signifying "twin sisters," having reference to this creek and that almost directly opposite, both being nearly of the same size and having the same name. Eva's Kill, or as more properly pronounced "E-vaws-Kil," derives its name from the sad death of Mrs. Eva Van Alstine, wife of pioneer Jacob Van Alstine, who lived in that vicinity. The unfortunate woman was opening a swing gate when she was surprised, slain, and scalped by a party of Indians who were lurking in the vicinity. Her child was spared but was taken by the savages to Canada and there held for several years. This tragic event took place early in the French war and the stream was thenceforth called Eva's Kill, east of which lay the Wilson and Abeel tract.

The earliest settlers were Germans, the first of whom appears to have been Philip Groat and family. In 1716 he purchased a tract near Cranesville, but he was unfortunately drowned while moving there on

the ice during the following winter. His widow, however, and three sons, Simon, Jacob, and Lewis, with their servants, made the settlement and this was the first permanent improvement in the town. In 1730 the brothers built a grist-mill, which was the first on the north side of the river, and these enterprising millers furnished flour from their primitive mill to the settlers in the entire region, even to the distance of fifty miles. The first bolting cloth was put in the mill in 1772, by James Burns. Lewis Groat was made a prisoner by the Indians in 1775, and taken to Canada where he was held for years.

In 1742 William Johnson, then a land agent and merchant, doing business at Fort Hunter, purchased a tract on the north side of the river, both east and west of the Kayaderosseras, with the intention (as asserted by himself) "of securing a water-power on which he proposed to erect a saw-mill that would be certain to yield a profit of fully forty pounds per annum." This purchase amounted to several hundred acres, and the saw-mill was at once erected, followed in 1744 by a grist-mill, and about the same time by the substantial stone mansion to which was given the name Mount Johnson, but now known as Fort Johnson. The ambitious young merchant also established a store near his new house, and continued his former business with these later additions. This store, which was also of stone, was demolished after the revolution, and a wooden structure (also intended for trade) was built on the east side of the creek. In 1763, the former land agent, merchant and superintendent of Indian affairs, having accumulated a fortune, and still better, a position of eminent distinction in public life, removed from the Fort to Johnson Hall, an elegant mansion built by him at Johnstown. Thenceforth and until Sir William's death, his son, Sir John, occupied Fort Johnson, which he inherited by the baronet's will. When Sir William died, in 1774, his son left the Fort and took up his abode at the Hall. Why Johnson called his first residence Mount Johnson has been a subject of considerable speculation, for it was erected on the low lands bordering the river, while the hills were some distance to the north. Ten years after its erection, when the life of the superintendent of Indian affairs was threatened by hostile savages, he fortified the mansion, from which it naturally took the name of Fort Johnson. This was an important station during the wars with the French and Canada Indians,

and at the Fort were held frequent councils with the chiefs of the Six Nations. Here also were planned important expeditions, which being successfully executed contributed to the early fame of the distinguished owner. The Fort Johnson estate is now owned by Ethan Akin.

In 1766 Sir William erected two commodious stone dwellings for his sons-in-law, Colonel Guy Johnson and Colonel Daniel Claus, both within the limits of this town. The first, known as Guy Park, is within the city limits of Amsterdam, and a comparatively recent owner added two large wings to the original building. It should be mentioned, however, that the first building erected on this site was a wooden structure, which was burned by lightning and then replaced by the present mansion. At the outbreak of the revolution Guy Park was fortified by its owner, who also drew about him a considerable force of Tories and Indians, but in 1775, headed by Colonel Guy, they all departed for Canada and never again returned except as midnight assassins seeking to wreak vengeance on the defenceless settlements.

The residence of Colonel Claus was situated near Fort Johnson, but unlike the other mansions it had no historic name. Each of these places was occupied during the revolution, after the flight of their owners by patriotic families; Fort Johnson by Albert Veeder, Guy Park by Henry Kennedy, and the Claus residence by Colonel John Harper. It was destroyed by accidental fire during the war. It may be well to add that each of these gifts by the baronet to his children was accompanied by a square mile of land, but this as well as his entire estate was confiscated and sold.

Although the region included within Amsterdam was usually well protected, pioneer settlement seems to have progressed very slow; but this may have been due in part to the land troubles which then excited so much dispute. Among the small number of names which may be mentioned, Peter Van Wormer is prominent as the first settler in the valley, locating on lot three of the Kayaderosseras track. Cornelius Dodds, a survivor of the revolution, settled here in 1793. George Shuler was also a pioneer, coming here during or even before the war. Victor Putnam came earlier than the revolution, and is remembered as having been appointed to watch for a hostile invasion of the region and to warn the Fort Hunter people of the approach of the enemy. James

Allen settled here in 1792, and Isaac and Samuel Jones in 1794. In this year and very soon afterward a number of families located in the eastern part of the town, among who can be recalled the names of Ellis, Robinson, Glass, Olmsted, Allen, John Jones, Joseph Baldwin, Samuel B. Jones, and others whose names are lost, all of whom were worthy and industrious pioneers who laid the foundation for the later prosperity of the town. In the same connection we may mention the name of Joseph Hagaman, whose settlement at the place now called Hagaman's Mills, was made in 1777. He was the pioneer of the north part of the town, and his farm included 400 acres. The village, which is now of much importance, was named in honor of its founder.

The pioneer of the prosperous city of Amsterdam was Albert Veeder, who came during the revolutionary war and built a saw-mill and grist-mill, and the place soon became known as Veeder's Mills, and later (with an increased population) as Veedersburg. Other early settlers in this locality were Nicholas Wilcox, E. E. De Graff, and William Kline, who, with others of later settlement, laid the foundation of the subsequent village and city. Veedersburg was dropped in 1804 and the place was called Amsterdam; but this change was not accomplished without effort, for the original name had warm advocates in the town meeting where the question was decided. The vote indeed resulted in a tie, and then the chairman (James Allen) cast the decisive ballot in favor of Amsterdam.

In 1794 the town contained 236 freeholders, but at that time, as has been mentioned, it included Perth. From the first assessment roll we copy the names of some of the largest tax payers, from which we may also infer that they were also the most influential men: Albert H. Veeder, Jeremiah Schuyler (probably means Shuler), Daniel Miles, William Kline, Nicholas Bradt, Christopher Peek, Cyrus Ladd, Jeremiah De Graff, Ahasuerus Marcellus, Frederick De Graff, Henry and Lewis Thomas, John L. Groat, Peter Van Wormer, Myndert Wemple, Henry Pauling, John Wiser, James Hagaman, Edward White, Ezra Thayer, John Baker, James Allen (on the record spelled Allin), Philip Lansing.

Amsterdam, as has been stated, was formed into a town March 12, 1793, but it was not until the first Tuesday in February, 1794, that a town meeting was held, the house of Isaac Veeder having been desig-

nated for that purpose. The officers then elected were as follows: Supervisor, Daniel Miles; town clerk, John P. Allen; assessors, James Allen, Joseph Hagaman, Emanuel De Graff; overseers of the poor, James Allen, Emanuel De Graff; commissioners of highways, James Allen, Henry Kennedy, Emanuel De Graff; constables, Nicholas Hagaman, Adam Nave; fence viewers, Albert H. Veeder, Myndert Wemple, James Allen; pound master, John Groat; overseers of highways, William Smith, Ezra Stevens, Nathaniel Smith, Henry Deal, Ira Benedict, Henry Thomas, Philetus Glass, Nicholas Hagaman, Thomas Starkweather, John Ladd, Zachariah Baker, Jonathan Sheldon, Myndert A. Wemple, Jacob Burton.

Succession of Supervisors.—Daniel Miles, 1794-95; Henry Pawling, 1796-98; James Allen, 1799-1808; John H. Lansing, 1809; Thomas Tullock, 1810-11; John P. Allen, 1812; Benedict Arnold, 1813-16; William Robb, 1817-19; Samuel Lefferts, 1820-21; William Reid, 1822-24; William Robb, 1825-26; Thomas Allen, 1827-28; Emanuel E. De Graff, 1829; Mathias J. Bovee, 1830-34; Benedict Arnold, 1835-36; John Sanford, 1837; John Freemyer, 1838; John Sanford, 1839-40; Israel Jackson, 1841-43; Jeremiah Groat, 1844; Samuel Belding, jr., 1845-47; George Warnick, 1848-49; John Stewart, 1850-51; Abram Young, 1852; Isaac Jackson, 1853; George S. Rowell, 1854; John McDonnell, 1855-58; Adam W. Kline, 1859-60; John McDonnell, 1861-63; Abram V. Morris, 1864; Isaac Jackson, 1865; David B. Hagaman, 1866-67; Alexander Scott, 1868-74; John K. Potter, 1875-76; John Carmichael, 1877-79; John T. De Graff, 1880-81; Horace B. Shepard, 1882-83; John Hand, 1884; Edward H. Finlayson, 1885; John T. De Graff, April 28, 1885 and 1886; Stephen Collins, 1887; John S. Sweet, 1888; William H. Pepper, 1889-90; William Clark, 1891-92.

Town Clerks.—John P. Allen, 1794-97; Henry Pawling, 1798; William Davis, 1799-1804; John P. Davis, 1805; Harmanus A. Veeder, 1806; John P. Davis, 1807-08; David W. Candee, 1809-11; James Downs, 1812-13; Luther Stiles, 1814; James Downs, 1815-16; Thomas Allen, 1817-26; Marquis Barnes, 1827; Luther Stiles, 1828-29; Thomas Allen, 1830-33; James H. Young, 1834; Charles Stiles, 1835-37; James B. Rice, 1838; James H. Young, 1839; Albert Borse,

1840-42; Thomas S. Fancher, 1843-44; Thomas Stewart, 1845-46; Daniel Miller, 1847-48; Thomas Davidson, 1849; Lawrence Shuler, 1850; John McDonnell, 1851-52; Frederick T. B. Sammons, 1853; David Sanford, 1854; Freeman Paige, 1855-62; Richard N. Veeder, 1863; Frederick S. McKinstry, 1864; Henry S. Persse, 1865; George S. Young, 1866; David Chalmers, 1867-68; George O. Warring, 1869; Philo Powell, 1870; Philip Pruyn, 1871-72; T. H. Benton Crane, 1873-75; John Cavanaugh, 1876; Henry Elislicher, 1877; B. W. Sammons, 1878; Edward H. Finlayson, 1879-80; Charles S. Nesbit, 1881; George Spalt, 1882; Harvey Chalmers, 1883; Nelson E. Van Deveer, 1884; I. B. Robertson, 1885; Francis L. Hagaman, April, 1885-1886; Joseph L. Wilson, 1887; Edward C. Fowler, 1888-89; Francis L. Hagaman, 1890; Robert B. Davis, 1891-92.

Present Town Officers. — Supervisor, William Clark; town clerk, Robert B. Davis; justices of the peace, Thomas Ireland, C. Truax, Benjamin Herrick, Robert Stairs; collector Levi Keller; auditor, Stephen T. Wilde; assessors, John M. Merrihew, Thomas Romeyn, Henry C. Miller; commissioners of highways, Obadiah Wilde, Welsh Reynolds, Nicholas Bradt; commissioners of excise, Garrett De Graff, Arthur L. Lawton, A. Dixon; overseers of the poor, John M. Phillips. Supervisor De Graff elected in April, on reorganization, after the city charter was granted.

VILLAGES AND HAMLETS.

Cranesville, situated on the north bank of the Mohawk about three miles east of Amsterdam city, is one of the oldest settlements in the town, for here in 1716 Philip Groat purchased a tract from the Indians, for the purpose of making a settlement, but as has been stated he lost his life accidentally and the settlement was made by his family. In 1730 the Groat brothers, sons of Philip, built a grist-mill and made flour and meal for the settlers in the region at that time, but during the French wars this then remote locality was subject to hostile invasion and hence its settlement was attended with many dangers. In 1755 Lewis Groat was taken prisoner by the Indians, and was not liberated until he had suffered four years' captivity. The vicinity of *Cranesville* also was the home of the first church ever organized in the town, but

the more exact locality is that known as Manny's Corners, about two miles north of the village.

The Reformed Dutch church was organized in 1792, its consistory at that time being composed of Michael Spore, Tunis Stuart, Jeremiah De Graff and Ahasuerus Marcellus, but through lack of perfect organization the society soon afterward became extinct, and not until 1795 was an effort made for its reorganization. The Dutch Reformed church of Amsterdam was formed the same year out of the remnant of the still older society. Jeremiah Voorhees and Cornelius Van Vranklin were elected its elders, but the society was so weak that no pastor could be sustained and hence only occasional services were held. No regular house of worship was built earlier than 1800, all previous meetings being held in dwellings and in groves. In that year the first meeting-house at Manny's Corners was built, but the location caused dissatisfaction among the members living at Veedersburg, and they withdrew and formed the Dutch Reformed church of Veedersburg. In 1812 the societies again united and formed the Presbyterian church of Amsterdam, severing their former ecclesiastical relation and becoming Presbyterian. On March 3, 1832, one hundred and four members withdrew from the Manny's Corners church and organized the Presbyterian church of Amsterdam. This withdrawal greatly reduced the mother church, but it struggled hard to maintain an existence, and the next year Charles Jenks became its pastor. In 1835 the church edifice at Hagaman's Mills was built in connection with the old society, and thenceforth for fourteen years services were held alternately in the two houses, which were called the north and south churches. In 1850, however, another separation took place by which sixty-eight members of the old society joined with the new. However, the south church at Manny's Corners for many years afterward maintained a gradually declining existence, but it was finally extinguished by the destruction of the old edifice about eight years ago.

The Reformed Church of Cranesville was organized June 24, 1871, having an original membership of eleven. Its first elders were H. P. P. Chute and H. J. Swart, with George A. Brewster and George Combs deacons. The church edifice was erected in 1870 and 1871, and cost about \$4,000. The present members number about forty.

However prominent Cranesville may have been during the early history of the town, it has hardly kept even pace with other hamlets of the town, and its business interests at the present time are therefore very limited. The postmaster is Cornelius Feltis, who also is proprietor of a large general store. The Riverside House is the only hotel of the village, and is conducted by Philip De Forest. Squire Truax is the justice of the peace, and Jerome Smith constable.

Hagaman's Mills.—This pretty village, situated in the northeast part of the town, on the Chuctenunda, was named in honor of its founder, Joseph Hagaman, who settled here in 1777, and soon afterward erected a saw-mill and also a grist-mill. It is said that at the "raising" of the mill the question of naming the town was discussed, and the assembled inhabitants agreed upon Amsterdam. We have no record to show precisely when this "raising" took place, but it was probably about the time of the division of old Caughnawaga (1793). Like many of the villages in this region, Hagaman's Mills made its most interesting history during its earlier days, and yet the later population has been highly successful, for the place now has two extensive industries (the Anchor Knitting Mills and the Star Hosiery Mills), which give steady employment to a large number of employees. It also has two church societies, a good school and the usual shops and stores of a well regulated country village.

The Reformed church of Hagaman's Mills was organized January 21, 1850, by sixty-eight former members of the old society at Manny's Corners, and was originally known as the "Presbyterian Church," but remained independent of both Presbytery and General Assembly. In October, 1855, however, the name was changed to Protestant Dutch Church, and in 1867 to Reformed Church. Charles Milne was its first pastor, and among the other early pastors were Revs. Kellogg, Amos W. Seely, J. L. Pierce, E. Slingerland and A. J. Hagaman, the last named being pastor many years. The church edifice was erected in 1835 and was used in connection with the society at Manny's Corners, and was for fifteen years known as the North church.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Hagaman's Mills was organized later on, but it has shown remarkable growth during the period of its existence, having now 102 members and twenty-six probationers, with



2. \mathbb{R}^n is a Hilbert space.

Henry Tuckling

a parsonage costing about \$3,000. The present pastor is Rev. R. E. Jenkins.

The Anchor Knitting Mills were built in 1879-80, and are among the best of their kind in the country, both in construction and equipment. These mills are owned and operated by William M. Pawling, who employs 100 operators. The product is scarlet knit underwear, of which 120 dozen are made daily.

The Star Hosiery Mills are owned by Henry H. Pawling, manufacturer of scarlet and fancy underwear. They have eight sets of cards, 1000 spindles, and eighty-one cylinders.

The other business interests of the village are represented by Israel P. Berm, general merchant and postmaster; Aaron P., Frank L. and John M. Hagaman, general dealers; Jeremiah Manchester, wagon-maker; Phillips & Pierson, blacksmiths and liverymen; Joseph L. Wilson, merchant; N. A. Caldwell and Henry C. Young, physicians, besides minor enterprises equally worthy of mention, did our space permit.

Rockton.—Although this is one of the youngest hamlets of the township, it is nevertheless highly important in a business point of view. The inexhaustible water power afforded by the Chuctenunda, together with its proximity to the city, have contributed largely to its growth, although forty years ago it only contained one or two saw-mills. Originally it was called Rock City, and the change to Rockton is quite recent. John Maxwell was the first important manufacturer. He formed a partnership with Adam W. Kline in 1857, converted the old saw-mill into a hosiery factory, thus founding an industry which has attracted many others and made Rockton a very active village.

The firm of Maxwell & Kline began manufacturing hosiery in a small way, but in a year or two they doubled the capacity of their mill. In 1860 their buildings were burned, after which Mr. Maxwell bought out his partner and at once built a more substantial factory, which was used until 1872 when that, too, was burned down. It was rebuilt, however, during the same year.

Although Rockton is within one and one-half miles of Amsterdam city it nevertheless has a Methodist church with ninety members and a congregation of about three hundred. The property is estimated to be worth about \$4,000. Rev. T. C. Harwood is the present pastor.

The village is included in Union Free School District No. 9 of the town of Amsterdam, the limits of which extend into the city. This school is one of the best of its kind in the county, and four teachers are employed. The last principal was Adam Yordon.

In a preceding paragraph mention has been made of some of the early industries, and hence we may now properly refer to those now in operation, and which have contributed so greatly to the building up and prosperity of this busy place, but it should be added that a number of Rockton's prominent manufacturers reside in the city.

The Mohawk Mills, operated by the firm of Howgate, McCleary & Company, is one of the most important enterprises of the region, and manufactures exclusively fine Smyrna rugs, carpets and mats. The firm employs about eighty skilled workmen, and their total output amounts to about 1,000 rugs per week. The individual members of the firm are John A. Howgate, William McCleary, Samuel Wallin and David J. Crouse.

The Park Knitting Mills (L. L. Dean & Co., proprietors) were put in operation in 1886, and furnish work for about 100 employees. Their produce is scarlet underwear, of which from 90 to 125 dozen are made per day. The members of the firm are Luther L. Dean, Isaac E. Lyon, and James T. Clark.

The Progress Hosiery Mills (C. E. Warner & Co., proprietors) manufacture cotton and woolen underwear, and form another of the prominent industries of Rockton. These mills are equipped with four sets of cards, 1080 spindles, 17 knitting and 35 sewing machines, to operate which are required 100 employees. The members of the firm are Charles E. and William Warner.

The Red Star Knitting Mills (Austin, Stairs & Blauvelt, proprietors) manufacture woolen knit goods and operate six sets of cards, sixteen knitting and thirty sewing machines. The members of the firm are Charles D. Austin, John W. and Robert Stairs, and Edward G. Blauvelt.

The Probity Mill (Benn & Becker, proprietors) manufactures woolen and balbriggan underwear and hosiery, operating four sets of cards, 1056 spindles, 29 knitting and 56 sewing machines. The members of the firm are William J. Benn and Charles J. Becker.



L. L. Dean.

Frank H. Levey's box factory is an industry worthy of mention, as the greater part of the paper packing boxes used by the manufacturers are made by him. The village also has its merchants, among whom we can name Charles A. Buchanan, druggist; William Finchout, Thomas Owens, John A. Rowledge and Charles J. Tighe, grocers. In addition we may also mention the extensive stone quarries and lime kilns of D. C. Hewitt, which are not only a prominent local industry but among the older business interests of the village.

Harrowers is the name of a small place on the Chuctenunda, a short distance above Rockton, whose chief importance is due to the Rural Hosiery Mills, owned and operated by Louis E. Harrower. These mills are prominent among the great industries of that locality, their equipment comprising 12 sets of cards, 2600 spindles, 51 knitting and 50 sewing machines. Their produce is knit shirts and drawers. Edward and Maurice Fitzgerald carry on a general store at the same place.

Akin, formerly known as Mount Johnson and now as Fort Johnson, is one of the most historic localities in the Mohawk valley, for here William Johnson, then land agent and merchant, established his home and business in 1744, building a mill in the same year. He called the place Mount Johnson, and ten years later when it had been fortified, it took the name of Fort Johnson, by which it was afterward known until a very recent date, when a railway station was established there. This station was called Akin and is thus known on the time table, but the post-office is still Fort Johnson.

The only prominent industry at Akin is the knitting mill of A. V. Morris & Sons, in which are employed 150 persons. This factory was established in 1887, from which year dates the real importance of the place. It also has a Methodist church, which, however, is of recent organization, and has a membership of 100 persons, under the pastoral care of Rev. M. J. Osteyee, who also supplies the Methodist pulpits of Tribes Hill and West Amsterdam. The latter is one of the older church organizations of the town, having been formed about 1810. The meeting-house was erected in 1860, and was located on Fort Johnson creek, about four miles northeast of Amsterdam city. Akin is noted for its hay trade, in addition to which is James F. Marshall's store, and Hurst & Sons quarries are not far distant.

THE CITY OF AMSTERDAM.

To trace the rise and growth of a prosperous city is a pleasant and yet a frequently difficult task, since it requires an unbroken series of records from the inception of the village to the incorporation of a city. Hence in attempting the history of Amsterdam the writer would mention in justice to himself, the embarrassment occasioned by the fact that by the loss of many of the older records, which has compelled him often to depend upon tradition.

The fact, however, is clear that contemporary with the revolution, Albert Veeder settled on a tract at the mouth of the Chuctenunda, where even at that early day he built a saw-mill and grist-mill, both rude structures, yet sufficient to supply the wants of the settlers. The erection of the mills in time induced other pioneers to settle in the same locality, but not until about the beginning of the present century did it assume the dignity of even a village. The place was known as Veeder's Mills, but at what time this was superseded by Veedersburg is now uncertain. In 1804, however, the hamlet had acquired a considerable population, with an almost equal proportion of Dutch and Yankees, and the question naturally arose regarding the permanent name. At the town meeting in that year the assembled voters determined to decide the question by ballot, and as it resulted in a tie, Supervisor James Allen, being the presiding officer, cast the decisive vote in favor of "Amsterdam."

The village then had not more than one hundred inhabitants, and even in 1813 it was only reported to have about one hundred and fifty. The public buildings at the latter date were the school-house and Presbyterian church, added to which were the mill, a number of small shops two or three stores and about twenty-five dwellings. From this time, however, the growth in population and industries must have been more rapid, for in 1830 the village was incorporated by the legislature, but it was not until 1831 that the people availed themselves of this privilege.

The act authorizing the election of five trustees and gave to the former hamlet the name of "Village of Amsterdam," creating it a



William Brendon

body politic and corporate, though with the limited powers usual to such villages. Ten years later another act provided for the election of a clerk, treasurer, collector, pound-master, and other officers necessary to its government, and also constituted the village a separate road district.

A farther advance was obtained by an act passed April 17, 1854, which granted Amsterdam a charter, with increased powers, and the village was described at that time as containing one square mile of land, divided into two wards, all the territory east of Bridge and Market streets and the Union road forming the First ward, while all west of that boundary constituted the Second ward. Under this act, also, the electors of the village were authorized to elect a president, three trustees for each ward, three assessors, a collector and treasurer, and the trustees were also empowered to appoint a police justice, one or more street commissioners (not exceeding, however, one for each district), one or more police constables, a clerk, pound-master, cemetery keeper, and one fire warden for each ward. Provision was also made for the election of a chief and two assistant engineers by the members of the fire department. We may also properly mention here, as incidental to the history of the city, that on April 25, 1864, the legislature authorized the trustees to purchase and thereafter maintain as free the bridge owned by the Amsterdam Bridge Company, which crossed the river between the village and Port Jackson. This purchase was made for \$23,000, and one third of the cost was borne by the town of Florida.

A still greater step toward complete municipal organization was granted by the act of April 13, 1865, which provided for the election of a president, three trustees for each ward, three assessors, one police justice, one or more police constables, a collector, one chief engineer and two assistants, a treasurer, a clerk, one or more street commissioners, a pound-master, a cemetery keeper, one fire warden for each ward, and a corporation attorney, all to be chosen as required by the act of 1854. A supplemental act passed June 12, 1875, created a treasurer for the fire department, by which he was to be elected.

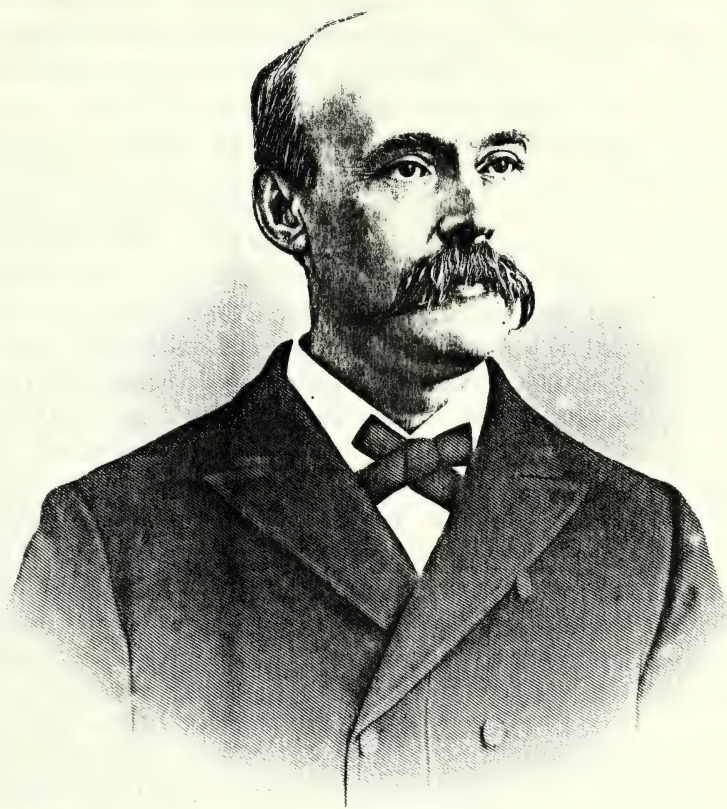
On April 16, 1885, the legislature passed an act granting a charter to the "City of Amsterdam," dividing it into four wards; and authorizing

the election of a mayor, recorder, overseer of the poor, treasurer, two justices of the peace, three assessors, three commissioners of excise and four constables, all to be chosen at a general election; also one supervisor, two aldermen and inspectors of election, to be elected in each ward; also a city clerk, superintendent of streets, fire warden, pound-master, sealer of weights and measures, one chief of police, and six policemen, to be appointed by the mayor and common council. In 1888, another legislative act extended and defined the boundaries of the city, the village of Port Jackson being included within its corporate limits, and designated the Fifth ward. By the same act permission was granted to increase the number of policemen from six to eight.

Mayors of Amsterdam.—John Carmichael, 1885; Harlan P. Kline, 1886; Thomas Liddle, 1887–88; John Dwyer, 1889; Hicks B. Waldron, 1890; William Breedon, 1891–92.

Supervisors.—1885, John J. Hand, 1st ward; Edward H. Finlayson, 2d ward; Julius Wasserman, 3d ward; Jeremiah Bulger, 4th ward. 1886, Howard Putman, 1st ward; William De Hart, 2d ward; James W. Kline, 3d ward; Ira W. Hewitt, 4th ward. 1887, Howard Putman, 1st ward; Joseph Chadwick, 2d ward; James W. Kline, 3d ward; Ira W. Hewitt, 4th ward. 1888, D. W. Ecker, 1st ward; E. H. Finlayson, 2d ward; James Kline 3d ward; John Kelley, 4th ward; Galvin Whitcomb, 5th ward. 1889, John D. Goodwin, 1st ward; H. O. Wilkie, 2d ward; John Monaghan, 3d ward; John Kelley, 4th ward; Thomas Perkins, 5th ward. 1890, John D. Goodwin, 1st ward; James Doak, 2d ward; John Monaghan, 3d ward; John Kelley, 4th ward; Thomas Perkins, 5th ward. 1891, Seely Conover, 1st ward; James Doak, 2d ward; Peter A. Sullivan 3d ward; Patrick Doorey, 4th ward; Edward J. Perkins, 5th ward. 1892, Seeley Conover, 1st ward; James Doak, 2d ward; Peter Sullivan, 3d ward; Patrick Doorey, 4th ward; Edward J. Perkins, 5th ward.

Such is the history of Amsterdam as given by the public records, but there are other elements equally important and far more interesting, which are only found in the beneficent influences of the public and private institutions and also those commercial and manufacturing enterprises whose development has given Amsterdam its high rank among the cities of America.



John G. Seiss.

1874



John W. ...

Educational Institutions.—Many of the facts related in this sketch are due to an article prepared by Professor J. G. Serviss, and read by him at the fourth annual meeting of the Board of Trade. We learn that the first school in this vicinity was taught in 1802 by William Reid, a Scotchman, and also that it was located "on the rocks," where Rockton now stands, but all vestige of the school-house has long since disappeared. Another authority, however, says that the first school was started prior to even 1800, and was taught by Daniel Shepard, and that in later years an addition was built to the school-house, then under tuition of Mr. Sill. The building was burned in 1856, and immediately a brick school was erected on its site, which in 1876 was enlarged to double its original size. It was known as the "old red school house" of District No. 8, and was maintained for more than half a century, until destroyed in the above mentioned manner. In conformity with the act of 1853, the village was made a union district the next year and the school was likewise made free.

About 1829 Mrs. Fisher, a clergyman's widow, taught a school of young ladies, occupying a building on the site of the more recent residence of James A. Miller, while nearly at the same time Mr. Thompson opened a boy's school in the old Stiles house on Church street hill, near the spring factory. In 1832 Horace E. Sprague erected a three story building on High street which was known as the Amsterdam Academy, but was afterward removed to the corner of Main and Chuctenunda streets, and still later (1865) to its present site.

The Amsterdam Female Academy was incorporated by the legislature March 29, 1839, and also by the Regents of the University, February 16, 1841. For the erection of a suitable building the Globe hotel property was purchased, and in connection with the academy, a young ladies' boarding house was established. On April 27, 1865, the name of this institution was changed to "Amsterdam Academy," and soon afterward the property was sold and a far more extensive academy was erected on the hill, having in connection a boarding department for young ladies, while the school received both male and female pupils. The first board of trustees under the amended charter was composed of Stephen Sanford, president; S. Pulver Heath, secretary; D. W. Shuler, treasurer, and Samuel Belding, Adam W. Kline, Abram V. Morris, S.

McElwaine, John Kellogg, John McDonnell, Leonard V. Gardiner, and Chandler Bartlett. The first principal was C. C. Wetsell, succeeded by W. B. Sims, W. W. Thompson, George H. Taylor, George H. Ottoway, Charles V. T. Smith, and Charles C. Wetsell, the last named being the present principal. The succession of principals of the old academy was as follows: Dr. Sterling, Gilbert Morgan, David H. Crittenden, M. T. Calvert, William Howell, O. E. Hovey, and William Aumack.

We may properly state, however, that the Amsterdam Academy is in no manner connected with the public schools of the city, but has been from its inception supported by tuition fees, its object being to furnish a higher and more finished education. Its affairs are managed by a board of trustees, whose members at present are as follows: Stephen Sanford, president; Gardiner Blood, secretary; Martin L. Stover, treasurer, and Davis W. Shuler, John Kellogg, James H. Bronson, L. Y. Gardiner, William J. Kline, Adam W. Kline, Frank Morris and David D. Cassidy.

The city of Amsterdam comprises three principal school districts, while portions of others include the suburbs. Each of these principal districts has its board of education and two of them have superintendents. An effort, however, has recently been made to consolidate the public schools, reducing the boards of education to one body, but thus far the attempt has not been successful.

Union Free School District No. 11 has a population of 2,661 children of school age, with four schools, one of which is the old stone house on Division street. The principal building is at 48 Spring street. The average attendance at the several schools in the district during the last year was 1,151, and the expense of tuition for the same period was \$9,611, the number of teachers in the district being twenty-two. This district is under the superintendence of Prof. John G. Serviss. The officers and members of the board of education are as follows: Dr. Charles H. Tilton, president; Hicks B. Waldron, secretary; A. A. De Forest, treasurer; James T. Sugden, Harvey Chalmers, John A. Spore, Charles G. Bellman, W. Barlow Dunlap, Richard Peck, William J. Benn.

Union Free School District No. 8 includes the territory of the eastern part of the city, except such part as may be in the suburbs. The school population is 2,390, while the attendance is only 709, a discrep-

ancy accounted for by the fact that the district includes St. Mary's Parochial School, with 650 pupils. This district, like No. 11, has a board of education, also a superintendent (John W. Kimball), whose office is in the school building on East Main street. Twelve teachers are employed at an annual expense of \$6,800. The officers and members of the board of education are S. Messenger, president; D. S. Dunlap, secretary, and Delos Lewis, James Voorhees, George V. Stover, H. L. Shuttleworth, J. Wasserman, George McCullough, and George McClumpha.

Union Free District No. 13 includes that part of the city which was taken from Florida. In fact the district extends beyond the city limits on the south side, while parts of Florida districts, in the same manner, extend into the city. The school population in No. 13 is 392, and the attendance 247. The district has a board of education but no superintendent, the members of the former being as follows: Dr. E. E. Rulison, president; George W. Putnam, secretary; C. Van Buren, George R. Harmon, William Visscher, Joseph Perkins, William J. Munsell, Benjamin Baird and John Haggarty.

Of the town districts which include portions of the city we may mention Nos. 2 and 3 of Florida, the former having a large school, and while by far the greater number of its scholars live in the city, yet they are compelled to go outside to attend school sessions. District No. 9 of Amsterdam also includes part of the city. This is the Rockton school north of the city, and has four teachers. The last principal was Adam Yordon. District No. 10, northwest of Amsterdam, also includes a small part of the city.

St. Mary's Catholic Institute was established April 20, 1881, and although a sectarian institution, yet it is under the supervision of the State Regents. The original building occupied by this school was enlarged during the summer of 1884, and reopened on October 22 following. The school is taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph, and has senior, intermediate, junior and primary departments.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union Industrial School was organized in the winter of 1888, with Mrs. J. V. Marcellus superintendent; Mrs. H. P. Kline and Miss Nesbet, directresses; Mrs. E. P. White, secretary; and Mrs. Dr. Tilton, treasurer. In the same connection,

also, we may properly mention the School of Music established by Prof. A. B. Haberer in 1885, and the Amsterdam Business College, founded in 1888 by Howard Keller.

Amsterdam Water Supply.—In 1820 the legislature incorporated the Amsterdam Aqueduct Company, of which Marcus T. Reynolds, Benedict Arnold and Welcome U. Chase were the principal factors, and whose design was to furnish a supply of pure and wholesome water to the families living on the west side of the Chuctenunda. Also at a later day another effort was made to establish a water supply system on the east side of the creek, and while both enterprises were rewarded with moderate success, the population increased so rapidly that the supply soon fell far short of the demand. This system, however, together with numerous wells throughout the village, was the only water for domestic purposes used in Amsterdam prior to 1881.

In the year last mentioned the legislature passed an act creating the "Water Commissioners of Amsterdam," appointing to this office Stephen Sanford, John Kellogg, Davis W. Shuler, Henry Greene, Gardiner Blood, John McClumpha, jr., Walter R. McCowatt, Augustus Clarke and John McFarlan to serve, three of them for three years, three for four years and three for five years, as they should determine by ballot or otherwise. On the 13th of May, the commissioners organized by the election of Stephen Sanford, president; John McClumpha, secretary; and Davis W. Shuler.

For the purpose of procuring an abundant supply of water, a reservoir was constructed on the hill north of the village, and was fed by the Rogers and McQueen creeks. The dam is 410 feet long and 50 feet high, and stands on a foundation of solid rock. The reservoir covers eighteen acres and has a capacity of more than 80,000,000 gallons. From the reservoir the water is conducted by pipes extending throughout the city. The fire department has the use of 195 hydrants, located at convenient points on the streets. The main pipes extend through twenty miles of street, and the total cost of the water works was about \$300,000. The elevation of the reservoir above Main street is nearly 300 feet, and the pressure on the mains is regulated by valves. The members of the board of water commissioners are as follows: James R. Snell, president; John I. Christman, secretary; William J. Taylor, treasurer; Dr. William

H. Robb, John Kellogg, Middleton Warnick, Thomas F. Kennedy, Robert Blood, Miles Cooline. A. H. De Graff, superintendent.

The Sewerage System.—As incidental to the excellent system of water works owned by the city, we may now briefly mention its equally admirable system of sewerage, and although both have cost the city several hundred thousand dollars, each has been of such benefit as to make it impossible to estimate their real value. The city is now provided with about twenty miles of sewers, constructed under the direction of sewer commissioners. An act of the legislature passed June 2, 1886, appointed John K. Stewart, Luther L. Dean, Hicks B. Waldron, Miles Kavanaugh, Alexander Mark, James T. Sugden, William J. Benn, James H. Winnie, and the mayor *ex-officio*, sewer commissioners, and provided for the continuance of the board by the common council. The present board of sewer commissioners comprises the following members: William Breedon, mayor, president *ex-officio*; James T. Sugden, Dennis Madden, Howard Putman, secretary, John Kelly, Bernard P. Mac-hold, John G. Serviss, Isaac Alder, Cornelius Van Buren, treasurer.

The Fire Department.—On the 20th of April, 1830, the legislature passed an act authorizing the incorporation of the village of Amsterdam, and also making provision for the organization of a fire department by the board of trustees. The loss of the early village records prevents us from giving either the first steps toward organizing this department, or the names of the first officers and members. Some of our readers however may recall the "Tub," a primitive machine for throwing water, which was the private property of James Holliday. In the early history of Amsterdam the only effective organization for extinguishing fire was the "bucket brigade," and not until 1839 was the village provided with a fire engine. Perhaps some of the older residents will remember that once famous machine, and it may be that some of the old Mohawk Engine Company are yet living. At a later date the trustees purchased another engine and organized the Cascade Engine Company, for which a house was built on Market street in 1855.

In June, 1870, the village purchased the steam engine "J. D. Serviss," at a cost of \$3,000, and caused a company to be organized, having sixty members at first, which was soon afterward increased to one hundred. In 1871 a second steamer, the "E. D. Bronson," was pur-

chased at a cost of \$3,400, and a second company was formed. Each company was supplied with two sets of hose and also with other necessary apparatus to complete the equipment of the department. In 1875 the first hook and ladder apparatus was bought and a company organized for its use.

The present fire department of the city consists of two steamers, one "truck" company, and six regular hose companies, named and located as follows: Eckford Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, located at 24 Livingston street; J. D. Serviss Steamer No. 1, at 14 Chuctenunda street; E. D. Bronson Steamer and Hose Company No. 2, at 51 Market street; Union Hose Company No. 3, at 23 Reid street; W. T. Bennett Hose Company No. 4, at 40 Guy street; Emerald Hose Company No. 5, at 224 East Main street; Filkins Hose Company No. 6, at 13 Grant street; J. J. Gray Hose Company No. 7, at Centre street. The officers of the fire department are as follows: George T. Wallin, president; William H. Son, treasurer; Isaac Rhodes, secretary; Henry E. Waterstreet, chief engineer; George Francisco, Charles Enser, assistant engineers; Henry E. Waterstreet, fire warden.

The Board of Trade.—The object of this organization is best stated by quoting from its constitution: "It shall have for its object the promotion of trade; the giving the proper direction and impetus to all commercial movements; the encouraging of intercourse between business men; the improvement of facilities for transportation; the diffusion of information concerning the trade, manufactures and other interests of Amsterdam." That the board of trade has fully carried out and accomplished the duty undertaken by its projectors eight years ago is proven in many ways, and in none more conclusively than in the establishment of the numerous industries of the last five or six years, and in the various local improvements during the same period.

The board of trade was organized November 26, 1884, in pursuance of a former meeting of interested citizens, prominent among whom we may mention W. Max Reid, James H. Bronson, George H. Munson, Gardiner Blood, John K. Warnick and J. Melvin Thomas, to whom was assigned the duty of preparing a constitution and by-laws for the proposed body. The report of this committee was adopted and the organization was perfected at the time mentioned, and the following officers

were then elected: W. Max Reid, president; James A. Miller, 1st vice-president; Gardiner Blood, 2d vice-president; John McFarlan, 3d vice-president; J. Melvin Thomas, secretary; A. A. De Forest, treasurer; John K. Warnick, John K. Stewart, Daniel Carmichael, George H. Munson, John McClumpha, Martin L. Stover, L. L. Dean, Dr. William H. Robb and L. H. Young, directors. The board had forty-six charter members. The number of present members is 110. The present officers are W. Max Reid, president; James A. Miller 1st vice-president; Gardiner Blood, 2d vice-president; George R. Hannon, 3d vice-president; James Howard Hanson, secretary; A. A. De Forest, treasurer; Stephen Sanford, Martin L. Stover, Thomas B. Vanderveer, Julius Wasserman, Luther L. Dean, James T. Sugden, John Kellogg, Henry Herrick and Charles C. Yund, directors.

Banks of Amsterdam.—The old "Farmer's Bank," which was the first financial institution, was incorporated in 1839, with a capital of \$100,000. Cornelius Miller was president, and D. P. Corey, cashier. After occupying rooms in various parts of the village it found a permanent location in 1852 in the building erected for it by Marquis Barnes, but in 1875 it erected a building for its own use at the corner of Main and Railroad streets. In 1859 its capital was increased to \$200,000, and in 1865 it availed itself of the national banking act and became the Farmers' National Bank. The officers are: John Kellogg, president; James Voorhees, vice-president; William J. Taylor, cashier; J. E. Williams, assistant cashier, and the board of directors is as follows: John Kellogg, John Warren, J. L. Banta, A. V. Morris, James Voorhees, William J. Taylor, John K. Stewart, Henry Herrick, John K. Warnick, Hiram Hubbs, Hiram Schuyler and George R. Hannon.

The Bank of Amsterdam was incorporated and organized in 1860, with Cornelius Miller, president; Jay Cady, vice-president; and Charles De Wolfe, cashier. In 1865 it was reorganized under the national banking act, and became the First National Bank of Amsterdam. Its original place of business was in the south Arch block, Main street, but in 1868 it erected and occupied the building at the corner of Main and Chuctenunda streets. This bank now has a capital stock of \$125,000; undivided profits, \$26,000. The officers are as follows: James A. Miller, president; David Cady, vice-president; T. H. Benton Crane,

cashier ; and John G. Serviss, James A. Miller, James C. Miller, George Clark, John K. Warnick, Oscar F. Nelson, John H. Voorhees, James T. Frasier, David Cady, T. H. B. Crane, Luther H. Young, Z. S. Westbrook and James B. Bailey, directors.

In 1864 the banking house of Morris, Phillips & Company was established and began business in the village. In 1869 A. V. Morris succeeded the former firm and has ever since conducted a large and successful banking business.

The Manufacturer's Bank was incorporated under the state law in May, 1873, and erected a building at the corner of Main and Church streets. Its principal officers were Adam W. Kline, president, and Charles De Wolfe, cashier. On the 25th of March, 1875, the institution reorganized and became known as the Manufacturer's National Bank, with A. W. Kline, president, and H. P. Kline, cashier. In the latter part of 1883, however, it failed, and Martin L. Stover was appointed receiver to settle its business affairs.

The Merchant's National Bank was incorporated under the national banking act of 1883, with a capital of \$100,000, but after several years of fairly successful business it went into liquidation, while a number of its prominent officers and directors purchased the Cassidy stock in the Farmer's Bank and united with that institution.

The Amsterdam Savings Bank was incorporated and opened for business in February, 1886, at No. 25 Market street. Its deposits now amount to more than \$300,000. The present officers are as follows: S. H. French, president ; Luther L. Dean, and George I. Herrick, vice-presidents ; George A. Thatcher, treasurer ; W. B. Dunlap, attorney ; S. H. French, Luther L. Dean, William H. Stebbins, Raymond Christman, John Kavanaugh, Bernard Machold, George I. Herrick, Thomas Morphy, Seely Conover, William A. Donnan, Theo. B. Vanderveer, David S. Dunlap, Wilber E. Tefft, Thomas Mansfield, W. B. Dunlap, George R. Hannon, and George Spatt, trustees.

The Amsterdam City National Bank was incorporated in 1889, with a capital of \$200,000, and although the youngest of the banking institutions, is nevertheless one of the strongest in the city. Its officers are Stephen Sanford, president ; Davis W. Shuler and Alonzo A. De Forest, vice-presidents ; M. Van Buren, cashier ; M. L. Stover, Stephen

Sanford, Louis E. Harrower, Davis M. Shuler, Willis Wendell, Alonzo A. De Forest, Lawren Kellogg, John D. Blood, M. Van Buren, Francis Morris, Cornelius Van Buren, Luther L. Dean and George McClumpha, directors. Its banking house is on Market street.

Public Institutions.—The Young Men's Christian Association was organized June 11, 1858, James H. Bronson being its first president, and although this has been one of the permanent institutions of the village and city, it did not become permanently located until the old M. E. church building on Market street was purchased and fitted up for the use of the association. The present members number about 170, the officers being as follows: Charles N. Gilbert, president; Edward A. Quire, vice president; Nathan W. Donnan, recording secretary; Dr. S. H. French, treasurer. The trustees are James A. Miller, president; John G. Serviss, secretary; Luther L. Dean, treasurer, and George I. Herrick, W. Max Reid and T. B. Vanderveer.

The Amsterdam City Hospital was incorporated November 24, 1888, through the efforts of the Amsterdam Medical Society. The organization was completed March 25, 1889, and the hospital building at No. 201 Division street (purchased from David Cady for \$5,000) was made ready to receive patients on September 17, following. The first officers of the association were T. B. Vanderveer, president; Cornelius Van Buren and David Cady, vice-presidents; Thomas F. Kennedy, treasurer, and W. Max Reid, secretary. The present officers are as follows: Cornelius Van Buren, president; David Cady and John K. Stewart, vice-presidents; Thomas F. Kennedy, treasurer; W. Max Reid, secretary. The matron of the hospital is Mrs. Marian Lingenfelter.

The City Hospital Aid Society is an organization which has been chiefly instrumental in promoting the success of the hospital and placing it upon a permanent basis. The officers of the Aid Society are Mrs. H. E. Greene, president; Mrs. Nias Hewitt, Mrs. Le Grand Strong, Mrs. Louis Peck, Mrs. D. W. Shuler, vice-presidents; Mrs. H. C. Storie, recording secretary; Mrs. W. E. Tefft, corresponding secretary, Mrs. T. G. Hyland, treasurer.

In mentioning the institutions of the city we may in this connection refer to the Children's Home, located at No. 81 Spring street, the management of which is vested in a president, vice-presidents and several

committees. The president is Mrs. William K. Greene, and the vice-presidents are chosen from the several Protestant churches of the city. Although a comparatively recent organization, the Home has proved itself a great blessing to the neglected youth of the city.

The Amsterdam Medical Society, embracing in its membership nearly all of the regular physicians of the city, was organized November 22, 1884, with the following officers: S. H. French, president; Charles Stover, vice-president; Thomas G. Hyland, secretary; D. M. McMartin, treasurer; and these officers with Dr. William H. Robb, formed the executive committee. The present officers are William H. Robb, president; Charles F. Zimmerman, secretary and treasurer. S. H. French with the above mentioned officers constitute the executive committee.

The Amsterdam Library Association was organized during the latter part of 1891; the first library in the village, however, existed as early as 1820, and we learn that William Reid was for many years its active manager and also librarian, but there is no record of its later years. The new library is supported by gifts and membership fees, and contains about 1,500 volumes of well selected literature. The officers of the association are William H. Robb, president; S. H. French, vice-president; Mrs. M. H. Trapnell, secretary; David Cady, treasurer.

The Chuctenunda Gas Light Company was organized in 1860, but its early years were marked by many difficulties, chiefly occasioned by the rock through which its pipes were laid. In 1866 the works were destroyed by fire, but were immediately rebuilt. In 1876, however, an increasing demand for gas required enlarged works, which were erected near the central depot. The officers of the company are Stephen Sanford, president; Davis W. Shuler, secretary; James H. Ward, superintendent; John Kellogg, David Cady, John K. Stewart, James A. Miller, directors.

The Edison Electric Light and Power Company, the Amsterdam Arc Light Company, and the Amsterdam Street Railroad Company are practically one corporation. In 1873 the Street Railway Company was formed, and laid and operated nearly two miles of horse railroad through Main, Market and Division streets. In June, 1890, the Amsterdam Street Railroad Company succeeded the former and equipped the road with electric cars, and now operate six motor and six "trail"



C. Van Puren

cars over three miles of track, using the Edison system for the power. The company has a capital of \$250,000, and its officers are as follows: J. H. McClement, president; Frank J. Sprague, vice-president; Thomas D. Mosscrop, secretary and treasurer; James R. Snell, general manager.

Cemeteries.—The first burial ground in Amsterdam was situated on Bridge street between Main street and the river. The building of the railroad, however, and the erection of business blocks and dwelling houses have obliterated all traces of its former existence. The second burying-ground was located on the hill, on Market and Prospect streets, but was soon filled, thus rendering a third cemetery necessary. A cemetery association was organized in 1857, and in the next year purchased a tract of fourteen acres of land on the north side of the village at the corner of Church and Cornell streets. Here Greenhill cemetery was laid out, the ground being beautifully ornamented with forest trees and evergreens, while gracefully winding drives and walks make every part accessible. The officers of the association are: Stephen Sanford, president; John Kellogg, vice-president; George H. McClumpha, secretary; A. A. De Forest, treasurer; superintendent Richard W. Sutton.

The other cemeteries of the city are St. Mary's and St. Joseph's, belonging respectively to the parishes of the same name.

The Amsterdam Press.—In December, 1831, the *Mohawk Herald* made its first appearance under the editorial management of Darius Wells. Two years later, however, the paper was sold to Philip Reynolds and by him moved to Johnstown and changed to the *Johnstown Herald*. When Reynolds moved to Fonda the paper was published at that place.

The *Mohawk Gazette* was founded in 1833 by Josiah Noonan, and is still a live publication of Amsterdam, notwithstanding its frequent changes in ownership and an occasional change in title. After having been published for one year by Mr. Noonan, the firm of Wing & Davis next assumed its management, and its name was changed to *The Intelligencer*. In 1836 this firm was succeeded by S. D. Marsh, who conducted the paper until 1854, and then sold it to Xenophon Haywood, who changed the name to the *Amsterdam Recorder*. From 1868 to

1882 Andrew Neff owned and published the *Recorder*, which was then edited by Charles P. Winegar, but in the last mentioned year he formed a partnership with Edward H. Finlayson, a practical journalist, and the new firm made it a daily paper. W. P. Belden became owner of the Neff interest in 1883, but in 1889 he sold out to Mr. Finlayson. Martin Lynck became a part owner of the *Recorder* in 1891, and during the proprietorship of Finlayson & Lynck the political tone of the paper has materially changed, being now an advocate of Democracy, whereas it was formerly strongly Republican. Later on Mr. Finlayson disposed of his interest and found a wider field for his ability in New York.

The third newspaper was called the *Dispatch*, the first number appearing during 1860, under the management of Winegar & Van Allen. It was at first printed daily, but at the end of about six months it became a weekly, but the venture proved unprofitable and in 1864 the *Dispatch* was discontinued.

The *Amsterdam Democrat*, a weekly paper, was established in 1868 by George O. Smith and Walter B. Matthewson, but after three months Mr. Smith sold out to Angell Matthewson. In 1871 John F. Ashe purchased the later Matthewson interest, and in August, 1873, the entire plant passed into the hands of William J. Kline. Previous to this time it was published as a Democratic paper, but Mr. Kline at once made it independent, and later on turned it into an ardent advocate of Republican principles. On the 20th of August, 1879, in connection with the weekly, Mr. Kline founded the *Daily Democrat*, and has since then continued both papers with marked success. The management is conducted by William J. Kline, editor and proprietor; John E. Willoughby, journalist; Seward Kline, business manager.

The *Amsterdam Sentinel* was founded in 1879 as a weekly Democratic paper, by Martin Lynck and Thomas McNally, but after a few months Mr. Lynck sold his interest to Edward H. Finlayson, and the firm changed to Finlayson & McNally. In 1881 the paper was purchased by Z. S. Westbrook, George H. Loadwick, Thomas F. Kennedy and W. N. Johnson, who continued the publication until October, 1884. Mr. Loadwick then became its editor and publisher, and also during the same year established the *Daily Sentinel*, an evening paper. On May 26, 1888, however, the daily became a morning paper, the only

morning issue now published between Albany and Utica, and is highly successful.

In addition to the regular daily and weekly papers Amsterdam possesses, we may briefly mention the other periodicals now having an office in the city. The *Patent Herald* was started in 1878 by editor J. O. Lingenfelter, and is issued monthly. The *Institute Journal*, also a monthly paper, was founded in 1884, and is published by St. Mary's Catholic Institute. *Our Young Men* is published monthly by the Young Men's Christian Association. The *Church Herald* is likewise published monthly by the Methodist Episcopal societies.

CHURCH HISTORY.

The Second Presbyterian Church.—In the year 1800 a number of the members of the old Dutch church of Amsterdam, becoming dissatisfied with the action of the society in erecting a church in the remote part of the town then known as "Manny's Corners," severed their connection with the mother society and in the same year organized the Dutch Reformed church of Veedersburg, and erected an edifice at the corner of Main and Market streets. At this time Rev. Conrad Ten Eyck was pastor of the old church and likewise rendered temporary pastoral service to the new organization, but was finally compelled to resign both charges on account of that weakened condition due to their separation. The Veedersburg church remained for eleven years without a pastor, but in 1812 it changed its ecclesiastical connection and became Presbyterian, an action previously taken by the mother society, and resulting in a reunion and reorganization as one body under the name of Presbyterian Church of Amsterdam.

On March 3, 1832, 104 members of the above mentioned church having previously obtained the sanction of the Presbytery, took letters of dismissal, and having organized the Presbyterian church of Amsterdam village, began immediately the erection of a suitable edifice at the corner of Church and Grove streets. It was finished and dedicated in August of the same year and was used until 1869, the last service being held May 9, when the old building was demolished and was replaced by a larger and more elegant structure. The new building is of brick with limestone trimmings, its plan being the Romanesque style of

architecture. It cost about \$40,000, and has sittings for 1,000, persons. Annexed to the edifice is a chapel which seats 250, and even more on extraordinary occasions. In February, 1871, by direction of the Presbytery, and upon application, this church was designated the Second Presbyterian Church of Amsterdam, the old church at Manny's Corners being at the same time designated as the "First" church. The pastors of the church have been Reverends Conrad Ten Eyck; Ebenezer H. Stillman, 1813-15; Halsey A. Wood, 1816-25; James Wood, 1826-33; Hugh M. Koontz, 1834-36; Montgomery S. Goodale, 1836-70; Henry S. Teller, 1870-80-81; Charles H. Baldwin, installed March 8, 1881, and is the present pastor.

The officers of the church are James H. Bronson, James A. Miller, David Cady, T. Romeyn Bunn, Henry Herrick, Gardiner Blood and John G. Van Derveer, elders; and Thomas S. Stanley, Joshua Sharp-ley, Nicholas J. De Graff, deacons.

Immanuel Presbyterian Church of Amsterdam was organized February 8, 1887, being the outgrowth of a mission Sunday-school organized the year previous. The insurance money paid to the Albany Presbytery after the burning of the old church at Manny's Corners was appropriated to the Immanuel society, and was used for building the present church on West Spring street, the total cost of which was about \$18,000. The first temporary minister of the society was Rev. Herbert C. Hinds, followed by Charles S. Dudley. The first pastor was Rev. Lester J. Sawyer, who was installed March 1, 1889, and still retains that office. Its membership is 110, and the Sunday-school has 200 scholars. The officers of the society are: elders, Thomas Morphy, John G. Serviss, Oliver S. Kline and William M. White; and deacons, D. B. Shelp, Elias H. Devenburg and David W. Ecker.

St. Ann's Church (Protestant Episcopal).—This church is descended from the historic Queen Anne's Chapel, built within the enclosure of Fort Hunter 1711, and demolished in the construction of the Erie canal. St. Anne's parish at Port Jackson was organized December 22, 1835, the church being erected in 1836, and consecrated in the following year. The growth of the parish, however, was much retarded by the unfavorable location. Amsterdam was rapidly increasing while in Port Jackson the growth was very slow. Hence the parishioners north



Wm. H. Brown, N.Y.

John Kellogg

of the river were at much inconvenience to cross the bridge to attend service. For this reason the church was sold in 1849, during the rectorship of A. N. Littlejohn, and the proceeds (\$2,400) were applied to the purchase of a new site on Division street. On this lot a church was erected, and consecrated June 15, 1851, by Bishop De Lancey, of the diocese of western New York, but the rectory was not purchased until many years later. The succession of rectors of St. Anne's parish since its establishment in this city has been Reverends William H. Frapnell, January 27, 1854, to April 24, 1857; J. A. Robinson, August 26, 1858, to 1864; Porter Thomas, 1864 to 1860; Thomas G. Clemson, November 14, 1869, to December 10, 1870; Howard T. Widemer, April, 1871, to January 1, 1875; J. C. Hewitt, 1875, rector about fourteen months; William N. Irish, July 1, 1876, to April, 1884. In August, 1884, Rev. David Sprague entered upon his duties as rector and St. Anne's church now has 330 members. The Sunday-school has 210 scholars. The present church officers are as follows: Wardens,—W. Max Reid and John J. Hand; vestrymen, Cyrus B. Chase, Thomas Mansfield, Charles S. Nesbet, William Ryland, Le Grand S. Strong, Hicks B. Waldron and John K. Warnick.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Amsterdam has its origin in the formation of a class in 1827, the organization of the society following soon afterward. About the year 1832 the society purchased the old Dutch Reformed Church of Veedersburg, and removed it to the corner of Main and Wall streets, where it stood until 1845, when it was again removed to Market street, where it still stands and is now the property of the Y. M. C. A. After the last removal, however, of the old pioneer church it was enlarged and remodeled; and in 1860 it was again enlarged. The present large and commodious Methodist church was begun in July, 1881, and finished and dedicated in October, 1883. Rev. W. H. Hughes was pastor at the time of dedication, and was succeeded by M. D. Jump, who labored three years. Rev. W. M. Brundage became pastor in April, 1889, and still continues in charge, his present membership being 1,200, while the Sunday-school has 700 scholars, the latter being under the superintendence of W. J. Benn.

East Main Street Methodist Episcopal Church is conducted under the auspices of the official board of the First Church, by which it was estab-

lished a few years ago. The church was built during the fall and winter of 1891-92, and dedicated in the following April. Rev. J. G. Patten, the assistant pastor of the mother church devotes much of his time to this society, whose congregation is of an encouraging character, while the Sunday-school has about 175 scholars. Mr. Patten, who is superintendent, came to the city in 1891, prior to which time the meetings were conducted by the young men of the First church.

The German Methodist Episcopal Church Society was organized in 1886, and has had three pastors, Rev. Gotleib Bubak, William Schluter, and Carl Stecker. The church on Division street was built in 1886, at a cost of about \$1,500. The society numbers about 110 members, and is now under the pastoral care of Mr. Stecker. The officers are Charles Ossenfort, Henry Brinkman, August Goder, Henry Schwenker, John Schwenker, William Krouer, Henry Needenmire and Ferdinand Naraski.

The First Baptist Church of Amsterdam was organized in 1800, and was connected with the Shaftsbury Association until 1808. The society appears to have then become extinct, as no reports were made until 1825, when it was reorganized with sixteen members and joined the Saratoga Association. Four years later a brick church was erected on Main street, but eventually was used as a dwelling. In 1842 the edifice on Market street was built, and has been in constant use by the society until the present year (1892), during which the elegant brick church on Division street was completed. The old church was dedicated November 17, 1842, the number of members at that time being 109; the present number is 566.

The first pastor was Rev. John Holmes who came in 1805 and died in 1808. The first pastor after the reorganization was Rev. David Corwin, who came in 1829 and left in 1832, after which time the succession of pastors was Reverends Absalom B. Earl, 1833-35; J. J. Whitman, 1836-37; Solomon Gale, junior, 1838-39; Edwin Westcott, 1840; J. W. Gibbs, 1841-42; W. H. Hutchinson, 1844-46; J. M. Harris, 1847-52; W. Kingsley, 1853; J. E. Kinney, 1854-55; R. Winegar, 1857-61; W. Groom, jr., 1862-63; W. F. Fagan, 1864-65; L. W. Olney, 1866-67; John E. Cheeshire, 1868-70; William M. Lawrence, 1871-72; L. W. Olney, 1873; E. F. Crane, 1874-75; J. E. Emory, 1876-79;

C. B. Perkins, 1880-88; Frank P. Stoddard, January 1, 1889, who is still in service.

Calvary Baptist Church of Amsterdam was organized in 1889, when 137 former members of the First church took letters of dismissal and many of them united to the new society, which thus far has held its meetings in a hall on Market street. The first pastor was Rev. William Wyeth, followed by Rev. Dewitt T. Van Doren, who resigned July, 1892.

St. Mary's Church (Roman Catholic). The earliest services of the Roman Catholic church in this vicinity were held in 1837, when Father Beauchamp visited the three villages and occupied the old Universalist church standing at the corner of Main and Market street. It was not, however, until 1844 that any church organization took place, when a building on the south side of the river was used for service. In 1849 Father Cull purchased the edifice formerly occupied by the society of St. Anne's church, in Port Jackson, which was used by his parishioners for several years, until the erection of the new edifice on the north side of the river. The latter, however, was replaced in 1869 by the more modern and comfortable church on Main street. Immediately after the erection of the walls of this edifice, the west side fell to the ground, severely injuring two workmen, and again in 1876 a severe gale blew down the church spire, which struck the roof of the priest's house and seriously injured the building. So far as we are able to ascertain, the succession of priests of St. Mary's church and parish have been as follows: Reverends McClusky, Cull, McCallion, Sheehan, McCue, O'Sullivan, Furlong, J. P. Fitzgerald, Carroll, E. P. Clark, Philip Keveney, W. B. Hannett and John Patrick McIncrow, the latter being appointed to this parish September 20, 1878. The present priest's residence and the convent building were erected in 1887, under the direction of Father McIncrow.

St. Joseph's German Roman Catholic Church was organized October 10, 1884, having about eighty families in its parish. Rev. Edward Hipelius was the first priest, and was followed by Andrew Stefferle. Rev. Andrew Duplang, the present pastor, was appointed October 22, 1888. The church was built in 1884, the total value of parish property being about \$25,000. The present number of families in the parish is

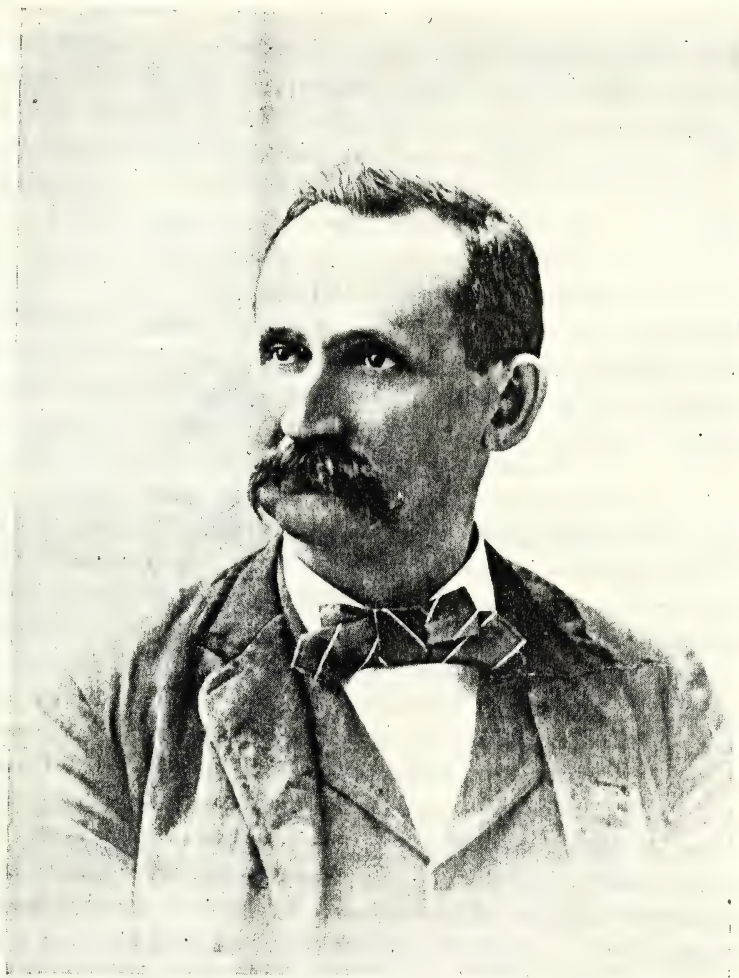
125. Connected with the church is St. Joseph's school, organized in 1891, and now having in regular attendance 130 scholars.

The Reformed Church of Port Jackson (now Amsterdam) was organized in 1849 or 1850, and the church was erected in the year last mentioned, at a cost of \$4,000 or \$5,000. In 1886 the building was thoroughly repaired and enlarged, requiring an outlay of about \$9,000. The society owns free of debt the church, parsonage and two carriage sheds, the whole being worth about \$18,000. The pastors have been Reverends Garret L. Roof, 1850-55; Cornelius Gates, 1856-57; A. J. Sawyer, 1858; Isaac G. Duryea, 1859-62; Henry M. Voorhees, 1863-65; A. M. Quick, 1865-69; H. Pettengill, 1870-73; John Minor, 1873-80. The present pastor, Rev. J. R. Kyle, was installed in December, 1880.

The German Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church was organized in 1869, having fifteen original members, and in the same year a frame meeting-house on Grove street was erected. The society was formed chiefly through the efforts of Charles Klugel and Charles Spalt. The first pastor was I. Krecting, who remained until 1879, being succeeded by G. L. Rietz, who died in 1887. During his pastorate a lot on Spring street was purchased and a handsome brick edifice was completed during the labors of Rev. Otto C. Konrad, who has been the minister of the church since 1887. The property of this society is estimated at about \$50,000. The regular members number 1,000 persons, and the Sunday-school has 500 scholars.

The German Evangelical Association held meetings in Amsterdam in 1883, the missionary being G. M. Schlegenhau, and the society organization was completed and the church built in 1884. The building is of brick and is located on Elizabeth street. The number of members is 130; the Sunday-school has about 70 scholars. The ministers and pastors have been Reverends G. N. Schlegenhau, F. Lohmeyer, Jacob Burghardt, and F. E. Herer, the last mentioned pastor having been installed in April, 1892.

Trinity Reformed Church was organized in February, 1892, and holds its meetings in Academy Hall. The pastor is Rev. James A. Beattie. The officers of the society are Harvey Bossler, J. M. Smeallie, and M. W. Donnan; deacons, E. O. Bartlett and W. H. Carver. The society has about twenty members.



Horace Inman.

Congregational Temple of Israel society was organized May 18, 1874 under the pastoral charge of Joseph Gregger, who continued in that relation thirteen years when he was succeeded by I. E. Vogenheim, who remained two years. The present rabbi, Henry Kline, came to the society in May, 1891. No synagogue has ever been provided for the society, its meetings being held in the Behr block.

Manufactures of Amsterdam.—Even before the revolution Albert Veeder built a saw and grist-mill on the Chuctenunda, and founded the little village of Veedersburg on the site of the prosperous city of Amsterdam. Almost three-quarters of a century, however, elapsed before this locality acquired prominence as a manufacturing centre, while its greatest advance has been made during the last twenty-five years. In 1804 Veedersburg was changed to Amsterdam, but it remained for a still later generation to develop the resources of the Chuctenunda and utilize its waters for manufacturing purposes.

Between the years 1830 and 1840 there was built and put in operation a number of mills, which, with the cutting down of the northern forests, exhausted the water power, making it necessary to resort to artificial means for restoration. It was not, however, until 1848 that any movement took place, when the mill owners, prominent among whom were John Sanford, John M. Harvey and John M. Clark, constructed a dam across the stream, at a point above the Forest paper-mill and reserved the surplus water for future use. In 1855 it became necessary to increase the supply, and consequently a reservoir was constructed in Galway, covering 450 acres, which was enlarged in 1865 to cover 550 acres. In 1875 the banks of the reservoir were raised, increasing the area of stored water to 1,000 acres. At this time also a board of trustees was formed for the purpose of maintaining the supply, Stephen Sanford being made president, and John Kellogg treasurer. The incorporators were Stephen Sanford, William K. Greene, Hoel S. McElwaine, Adam W. Kline, Davis Shuler, John Kellogg and John C. Miller; capital stock, not less than \$10,000 nor more than \$50,000.

The establishment of this supply has been of immense advantage to the manufacturing interests of Amsterdam, as it has attracted many of the large factories that have been built at various places on the Chuctenunda, which, with others in the locality, have made this place one

of the most noted manufacturing centres in interior New York. To some of these, past and present, it is our purpose now to make brief reference.

In 1842 William K. Greene withdrew from the firm of Wait, Greene & Company of Hagaman's Mills and came to Amsterdam, where he started a carpet factory in a small building where now stands the Green Knitting Company's works. A few years afterward John Sanford acquired an interest in the business, which was then removed to the old Harris mill, further up the stream. At length however, Mr. Green retired from the firm, which thereafter became known as J. Sanford & Son. In 1853 the senior member retired and Stephen Sanford became its sole proprietor. Later on the firm became S. Sanford & Sons (its present style), and this house has built up the most extensive carpet manufacturing industry in the country, giving employment to nearly 2,000 operatives. The members are Stephen, John and William C. Sanford the first being the father and the other his sons. The success of William K. Green and the Sanfords naturally led others to engage in the same manufacture. The most prominent of the later factories is that now owned and operated by Shuttleworth Brothers, the partners being John, James and Walter, whose extensive factory is at the foot of Lifferts street, near the railroad. Here also hundreds of employees are constantly engaged, constituting one of the most important industries of the city. In the same connection we may briefly mention the commonly called "Rug Mill" of Howgate, McCleary & Company, at Rockton, and although not strictly an industry of this city is nevertheless so connected as to be worthy of mention in this place.

In 1856 William K. Green and John McDonnell began the manufacture of knit goods in the small building where now stands the extensive mills of the Green Knitting Company. In 1868 Mr. McDonnell withdrew, the business being thenceforth conducted by Mr. Green, who increased it by building a much larger mill on the old site. In 1870 the proprietor died, and was succeeded by his sons, E. P. and Henry E. Green, and also John K. Warnick, under the name of W. K. Green's Sons & Company. Upon the death of E. H. Green (1876) the firm became W. K. Green's Son & Company. In 1881 Henry E. Green died, and in 1882 the Green Knitting Company, manufacturers of knit underwear,

was formed, and now operates the large factory at No. 63 to 85 Market street, furnishing employment to 450 workers in the various departments.

The Pioneer Knitting Mills, a large three story brick building at 29 and 31 East Main street, is the outgrowth of a business established by Adam W. Kline and John Maxwell, in 1856. The former, it is said, was the first to engage in the manufacture of knit goods in Amsterdam. His first place of business was at Rockton, but being burned out he came to the village, and in company of his son built a mill on the east side of the Chuctenunda. In 1866, however, the building was destroyed by fire, and the firm erected on the same site a grist-mill, which they operated for a time, but preferring their other business, converted it into the Pioneer Hosiery Mills, later known as the Pioneer Knitting Mills, owned and operated by Harlan P. Kline and Charles Hubbs, the former the son of its founder. The mills are now operated by J. N. Van Antwerp. John Maxwell, above referred to, invented the machinery used by the firm of Maxwell & Kline, and patented it in 1853, and afterward secured other valuable patents on knitting machinery. He also became proprietor of the Amity Knitting Mills.

The McFarlan Mills are the outgrowth of the still older Amsterdam Hosiery Mills, established on Chuctenunda Hill by John McFarlan in 1861, and is therefore one of the oldest industries of the city. The present firm comprises John McFarlan and John H. Giles, the style being McFarlan & Company. They are general manufacturers of knit underwear, and employ in their large four story brick building about 125 operatives.

The Chuctenunda Mills were established in 1864 by James H. Schuyler and Gardiner Blood in a building on Market street. It was erected in 1879 and is four stories high, and affords employment to nearly 200 persons. In 1879 Mr. Schuyler died, and in 1889 John K. Stewart became partner with Mr. Blood under the firm of Blood & Stewart. They manufacture knit shirts, drawers and jackets.

The Clinton Hosiery Mills, located at No. 14 Livingston street, of which O. F. Nelson and J. C. Miller under the firm of Nelson & Miller were for some time proprietors, was founded by Mr. Nelson in 1864.

The products are knit underwear goods. Mr. Miller became partner with Mr. Nelson in 1882, but in 1890 A. V. Morris & Sons succeeded the old firm, and now operate the mills.

The Riverside Mills, of which the firm of Warner, De Forest & Company are proprietors, comprise three large buildings, two of which are in the rear of No. 18 Market street, while the third, known as mill No. 3, is near the railroad. The joint output of these mills is said to equal that of any knit goods firm in the state. This large industry had its origin in the enterprise founded by the firm in 1871 in the old "Furnace" building near the railroad. The first of the three buildings now in use, known as Mill No. 1, was erected in 1875, and in it are employed 140 persons; the second, known as Mill No. 2, standing near No. 1, was built in 1880, and the third in 1883. In Mill No. 2 are employed 150, and in No. 3, 125 persons. The present members of the firm are John Warner, Alonzo A. De Forest, James T. Sugden and James Faulds.

In 1873 the the firm of Phillips, Denton & Loudon began the manufacture of knit goods in the large three-story brick building now occupied by the firm of Thomas & Pettengill. The first change in the partnership was made soon after the business was started, Phillips, Gardiner & Co. being the successors, but in 1877 Gardiner & Thomas succeeded the last mentioned firm. In 1885 W. T. Pettengill formed a partnership with Mr. Thomas and they became sole proprietors. The manufactures of this house are boys' knit underwear, in which more than 100 persons are employed. Under the ownership of Gardiner & Thomas the factory was known as the Mohawk Valley Hosiery Mill, located on Main street (now 130 West Main), near the river.

The Metropolitan Hosiery Mills.—The firm of W. R. McCowatt & Co., manufacturers of scarlet knit underwear, is the outgrowth of the older firm of McCowatt & Nelson, formed in 1878. In 1884 Mr. Nelson was succeeded by L. L. Dean, and the firm was changed to McCowatt & Dean. A year later Thomas Liddle and George B. Stover purchased the Dean interest, Mr. Liddle, however, retiring soon afterwards. Mr. McCowatt died in 1883, but his name is still retained at the head of the firm. Those at present in the firm are the heirs of the McCowatt estate, Gardiner Blood and George B. Stover. Their mills

are located at Nos. 29, 31, 33 and 35 Chuctenunda street, where are employed 100 operatives.

The Clermont Hosiery Mill, Edward McDonnell, manager, was established by its present owner in 1881. It is located on Chuctenunda Hill. Mr. McDonnell is also the manager of the former Globe Hosiery Mills located on the hill, and formerly operated by Clark & Kline, but now reorganized under the name of United Knitting Company.

A. V. Morris & Son, the individual members of which firm are Abram V., Francis and John Morris, began the manufacture of knit underwear in 1881, at No. 7 Chuctenunda street, where they now employ about 150 operatives. In 1887 the firm started another mill at Fort Johnson, where are employed an equal number of hands. Also in 1890 they succeeded the firm of Nelson & Miller, who were formerly proprietors of the Clinton Hosiery Mills.

The Royal Knitting Mills, at the corner of Hamilton and Corey streets, were established in 1886, by W. P. Snyder and Eli Van Brocklin, under the firm name of Snyder & Van Brocklin, manufacturers of fancy knit underwear. Mr. Van Brocklin afterward removed to Northville, and the firm changed to Snyder & Hull, and is now Snyder, Hull & Smith.

The firm of Gardiner & Warring, manufacturers of knit goods at No. 5 Yeoman street, was established in 1886, and in the same year erected the large mill building it now occupies, and known as the West End Knitting Mill. The members of the firm are James B. Gardiner and Charles H. Warring.

The Amsterdam Knitting Company is one of the more recent of these manufactories, having been in operation only a few years. The buildings are on West Main street, where mitten backs are chiefly made. The proprietors are Carl Teyst and Adelbert Pangburn.

The Atlas Knitting Company, successor to Thomas & Pettingill, was formed in 1890 and manufactures knitted shirts and drawers. The proprietors are John H. Giles, Henry Herrick, Frederick Green and John K. Warnick.

The Eagle Knitting Mills have been in operation about four years, under the ownership of Charles C. and Theodore J. Yund and Thomas F. Kennedy, the firm being Yunds & Kennedy. The mills are at the foot of Eagle street.

The Spartan Mills, John and William A. Liddle, proprietors, were put in operation in 1891, and manufacture knitted shirts and drawers, employing 125 persons.

McElwain & Salisbury are also among the more recently formed knitting firms of the city, and their works are at No. 1 Livingston street.

The firm of J. J. Rowe & Son (John J. and Charles Rowe), is among the younger knit goods manufacturers. Their product, however, differs from that of the majority of the knitting mills of the locality, being fine Egyptian and silk goods. Their factory is situated on Center street, and is known as the West Shore Knitting Mill.

The Amsterdam Silk Mill, under the proprietorship of Louis Lichtenheim, is another of the recent industries of the city worthy of mention. The mill is located on Elk street, where are manufactured mitts, gloves and Jersey cloths.

The manufacture of knitted goods of all descriptions indeed is the leading industry of the city, and employs more capital and labor than any other line of manufacture. It has also been the direct means of drawing hither other factories whose product is largely dependent upon the hosiery and knitting mills. We refer to the constantly increasing output of the paper box factories, of which there are three, and the extensive similar works at Rockton and vicinity. Of those in the city, we mention first that of the Inman Manufacturing Company, located at Nos. 51 and 53 Spring street, established in 1879, of which Horace Inman is the proprietor. Another large industry of the same character is the Manufacturers' Paper Box Company, at No. 23 Livingston street, of which John H. Giles is secretary. The firm of Overton & Van Wyck, the members of which are Robert H. Overton and James P. Van Wyck, have also a large box factory at 149 Florida avenue.

At this time also we might properly refer to the manufacture of wall paper, as once among the prominent interests of the locality. In 1866 William Stewart and Daniel Carmichael began the manufacture of straw wrapping paper, but after two years they changed their machinery to enable them to make brown hanging paper. In 1874 this manufacture was discontinued, and thereafter the product of the mill was white hanging, or wall paper. The factory is located on Forest avenue. In 1885 Mr. Carmichael purchased his partner's interest in the business, and

conducted the mills until about three years ago. On account of misfortune the works were closed for a time, but are now again in operation by creditors of the former proprietor.

The manufacture of linseed oil has been one of the prominent industries of Amsterdam for many years; in fact, it is the pioneer among the multitude that has been from time to time established. The business of the present firm of Kellogg & Miller had its inception in the little factory started in the village by Supplina Kellogg in 1824, nearly seventy years ago. He could only make five or six barrels a day, while the present factory makes six thousand gallons in the same time. The extensive works of the present firm includes sixteen large buildings, and they employ one hundred men.

In 1849 Mr. Kellogg, the founder of this enterprise, died and was succeeded in the business by his sons, John and Loren Kellogg. Five years later the last named son died, and James A. Miller took his place in the firm. In 1872 George Kellogg, son of John, became a partner in the firm, and in 1879 Loren, another son, also became interested in the business. The works of the firm are located on Church street opposite Cornell street.

The same year (1852) there was started in Amsterdam a factory for the manufacture of burial caskets, by I. C. Shuler. At a later day the works were enlarged to meet the demands of their products, and the result was the establishment of one of the large industries of the city. The firm of I. C. Shuler was known in local business circles for many years. The Shuler Manufacturing Company, organized in 1888, was the outgrowth of the business established by Isaac C. Shuler. The company manufactures portable earthen sepulcher vaults. Its capital stock is \$50,000.

The firm of Davis W. Shuler & Son are manufacturers of carriage, wagon and truck springs, having extensive buildings on Church street. This business was originally established in 1856 by Shuler, Delamater & Viele, but after a few years the senior member of the present firm became its sole proprietor. In 1880, however, William S. Shuler was made a partner with his father, the firm being Davis W. Shuler & Son. They employ in the several departments of their factory 150 men.

The manufacture of brooms and brushes has for many years occupied a prominent position among the industries of Amsterdam and its local-

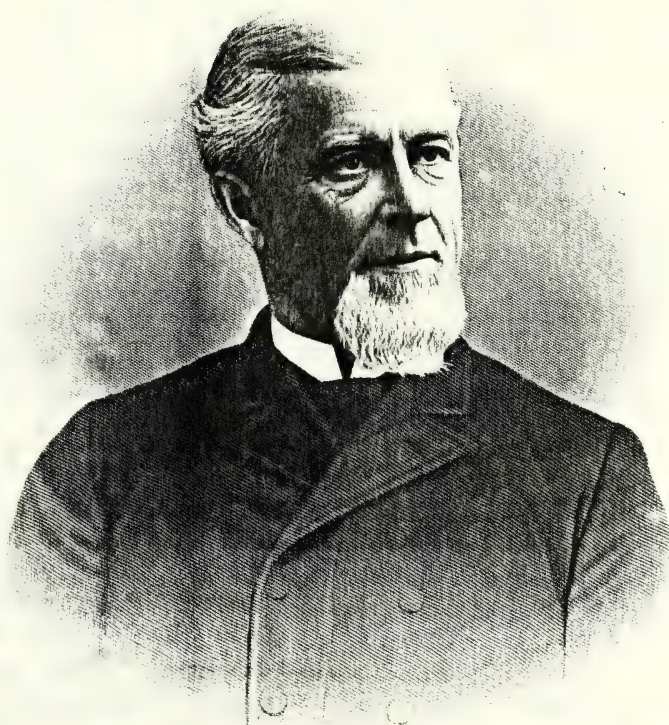
ity. Among the early factories of note were those of J. D. Blood & Son, G. W. Bronson and Henry Herrick & Co. The first mentioned firm is still in business, being at present J. D. Blood & Co., the members of which are John D., James and Frank A. Blood, whose factories are located at 25-29 Walnut and 15-19 Washington streets. The later members designated the concern conducted by Henry Herrick and Avery Howard as Henry Herrick & Co. The G. W. Bronson steam broom factory was located on Cedar street.

The firm of Lewis Peek & Co., the members of which are Lewis Peek and Edward J. Hand, was organized in 1885, and in the same year built the factory on Pine street, but the original members of this firm were Mr. Peek and W. C. Noonan.

The first foundry in Amsterdam was established in 1837, by Bell Marcellus, and was purchased in 1842 by H. S. McElwain, the latter continuing the business for many years. The works on Livingston street are now operated by the firm of W. & H. C. McElwain. The other representatives for the iron foundry and machine shop industry in this city at the present time are the Inman Manufacturing Company on Spring street; the Perkins Foundry Company on Bridge street; Smeallie Brothers on Livingston street, and E. Tiffany & Son on Spring street.

Incidental to, but in no manner connected with the iron industries of the city, are the wood workers, which in all their varied branches form an important element of local manufacture. It is difficult, however, to classify them or to ascertain their origin or extent, and we must therefore be content in naming those now in operation. Francis Gilliland's Sons is a leading firm engaged in the manufacture of sash, doors, blinds, having also a planing mill at 39 Bridge street. Henry C. Grime has a similar factory on Erie street (5th Ward), as also has the firm of Servoss & De Graff at 288 Florida avenue. L. & G. S. Banta on West Main street, and Charles H. Deal at 52 Divison street carry on shoddy mills.

Societies and Orders—Artisan Lodge No. 84 F. & A. M. was organized in pursuance of a charter granted by the Grand Lodge in 1824, and held its first meeting in the shop of W. N. Chase on the river bank near the foot of Pearl street. The lodge, however, soon afterwards became extinct, and was not revived until 1854, when its original number



F. J. M. B. 1877

J. A. Bronson

was likewise restored. It holds semi-monthly meetings in Masonic Hall, Sanford Homestead Building. The present officers are as follows: Davis S. Dunlap, W. M.; Thomas Mansfield, S. W.; Wilbur E. Jenkins, K. W.; Stephen Messenger, treasurer; Almartin T. Young, jr., secretary; Julius W. Kimball, S. D.; Martin J. Serviss, J. D.; E. Watson Gardiner, S. M. C.; Oscar K. Potter, J. M. C.; Robert N. Clark, chaplain, F. V. Miller, tyler.

Amsterdam Charter No. 81, R. A. M. was chartered March 26, 1866, with nineteen original members, only five of whom are now living. John D. Serviss was the first high priest. The Royal Arch Masons of the city now number 75, and meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in Masonic Hall. The present officers of the Chapter are as follows: George R. Hannon, M. E. H. P.; W. Max Reid, E. K.; Herbert Shuttleworth, E. S.; J. M. Michaelson, G. H.; Joseph Perkins, P. S.; M. W. Reid, R. A. C.; Charles D. Austin, M. 3d V.; James Nichol, M. 2d V.; Edward McDonnell, M. 3d V.; C. Van Buren treasurer; A. T. Young, jr., secretary; John K. Warnick, W. R. Vanderveer, A. V. M. Smith, trustees.

Mirsola Grotto, No. 5, M. O. V. P. E. R. of Amsterdam was organized April 1, 1892, having twenty-four charter members. The present officers are Edward J. Perkins, Monarch; M. J. Serviss, chief justice; James Nichols, master of ceremonies; Robert N. Clark, secretary; George B. Stover, Edward L. Smith, William Kaufman, trustees; George R. Hannon, orator; George E. Stevens, alchemist; Charles A. Lutton, marshal; Seward Kline, captain of guard; Fred V. Miller, tyler.

Amsterdam Lodge, No. 184, I. O. O. F. was instituted January 29, 1845, and in 1859 surrendered the charter, but the lodge was revived July 22, 1866, and is now a large organization, having about two hundred and fifty members. The officers are as follows: Frank Thayer, N. G.; J. F. D. Vedder, V. G.; James Deal, secretary; Philip Tompkins, treasurer; Henry Becker, John Crouse, J. N. Smith, trustees.

Guttenburg Lodge (German), No. 220, I. O. O. F. was instituted in November, 1859, and now has about 90 members. The officers are as follows: Louis Dummer, sen., N. G.; Frederick Rogge, V. G.; Louis Dummer, jr., rec. secretary; Fred Doer, treasurer; O. Rust, cor. secretary.

Montgomery Lodge, No. 47, I. O. O. F., was instituted January 7, 1887, and has a present membership of about 145. The officers are as follows: Herman Travernick, N. G.; Luman Folinsbee, V. G.; Jacob Brazie, secretary; Charles H. Fifield, treasurer.

Oak Leaf Rebekah Lodge, No. 123, I. O. O. F., was instituted November 22, 1890, and now has a membership of forty-five. The officers are Clara M. Duell, N. G.; Minnie Brazie, V. G.; Edward Murray, rec. secretary; Lydia Fox, financial secretary; Mrs. William Hovey, treasurer; Annie Johnson, Warden; Jacob Brazie, chaplain.

Amsterdam Canton, No. 20, Patriarchs Militant, was mustered into service May 14, 1886, and has a uniformed membership of 36, and an honorary membership of 10. The present officers are as follows: B. F. Olivar, D. D. G. M.; Jacob Brazie, chaplain; Edward J. Murray, lieutenant; David E. Morse, ensign; Walter V. Barber, clerk; Henry Becker, treasurer.

Star Encampment, No. 33, was instituted in November, 1869, and now has about 92 members.

E. S. Young Post, No. 33, G. A. R., was organized April 10, 1875, with 20 charter members. The present officers are as follows: Benjamin Thrackrah, commander; Thomas H. O'Neil, sen. vice-commander; John H. Deal, jun., vice-commander; Charles N. Wells, adjutant; Michael Fitzjames, quartermaster; J. L. Peck, O. of D.; George Brown, O. of G.; William Ryland, chaplain.

Post A. H. Terry, No. 300, G. A. R., was chartered in November, 1890, having 21 original members. The present membership is 54. The officers are as follows: John S. Maxwell, commander; William S. Wood, sen., vice-commander; Henry Deal, jun., vice-commander; Abraham Cass, adjutant; Fred W. Rawdon, quartermaster; George W. Dunham, chaplain; Richard J. Powers, surgeon; Alonzo P. Slocum, officer of the day; Jesse Barnet, officer of the guard.

In addition to the orders and societies, that have been mentioned in this chapter we may appropriately refer briefly to some of the many others of the same class which have been organized in the city. We may further add that Amsterdam has a greater variety and number of social, charitable, and beneficiary societies than many cities even of greater population, so many, indeed, that we can hardly do more than

make a brief allusion to them. We feel constrained, however, to mention the names of some of these societies to show that the compiler desired to assist in any benefit that may be thus derived.

Mohawk Valley Lodge, No. 208, A. O. U. W. ; J. Wicks, P. M. W. ; Kenneyto Tribe, No. 110, I. O. of R. M., A. R. Gardiner, sachem ; Mohawk Assembly, No. 243, R. S. of G. F., W. H. Smith, R. ; Amsterdam Lodge, No. 291, I. O. F. S. of I., Isaac Mark, president.

Knights of Pythias are numerous in this city, their organizations being Chuctenunda Lodge, No. 100 ; Woodbine Lodge, No. 250 ; Berlina Lodge, No. 298, and Austin Division, No. 14, Uniform Rank.

Thersia Council, No. 86, Order of Chosen Friends ; Lodge No. 101, Order of Elks ; Amsterdam Council, No. 1259, Royal Arcanum ; Clan McAlpine No. 60, Scotch Society Order ; The Sons of St. George, The Order of Iron Hall, and the Order of American Mechanics, are also among the society organizations of the city.

The temperance societies are Kimball Lodge, No. 990 ; Star Lodge, No. 860 ; Tent of Rechabites ; St. Mary's Temperance Guild ; Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and Amsterdam Commandery, No. 107, P. F. Y. B. O.

The military organizations are the Forty-sixth Separate Company, N. G. S. N. Y., organized July 15, 1877 ; Post Young, No. 33, G. A. R. ; Post A. H. Terry, No. 300, G. A. R. ; Camp A. H. De Graff, No. 18, S. of V. ; Camp W. E. Cross, No. 154, S. of V., and Terry Post, Woman's Relief Corps, G. A. R.

The German literary and musical societies are the Amsterdam Liederkranz, and Turnverin Fortschritt.

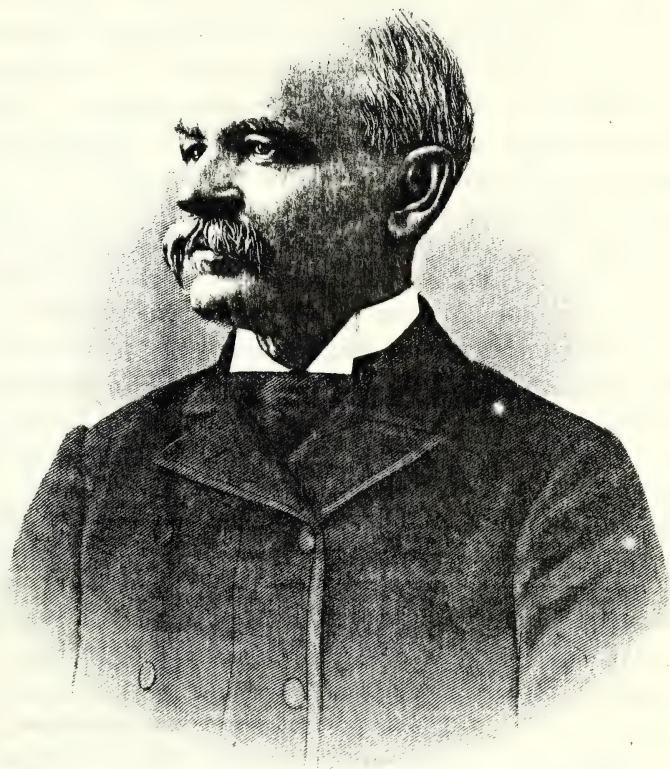
The Roman Catholic religious societies are the Holy Angels' Sodality, St. Aloysius' Sodality, and the Young Ladies' Sodality, each connected with St. Mary's church ; the Altar Society, St. Joseph Benevolent Society, St. Paul's Sodality, St. Stanislaus' Society, and the Young Ladies' Sodality, each connected with St. Joseph's church.

CHAPTER XX.

THE TOWN OF MINDEN.

THIS is the southwest corner town of the county, and lies on the south bank of the Mohawk. Its boundaries are formed by the Mohawk on the north, Canajoharie on the east, Schoharie county on the south and Herkimer on the west. The surface of Minden consists chiefly of an undulating upland with steep declivities bordering upon the streams. Otsquaga creek, which rises in the southwest part of the town, flows in a northeasterly direction, receiving the waters of Otsquene creek (its principal tributary), a mile north of the centre of the town, and emptying into the Mohawk at Fort Plain. Otsquaga is derived from the Mohawk word "Oxsquago," signifying "under the bridge." The other streams of the town are of minor importance and generally flow in an east or northerly direction, also emptying into the Otsquaga. The soil throughout the greater portion of the town is a fine quality of gravelly and clayey loam, and is well adapted to grazing. In dairy products Minden has always been in advance of many of the neighboring towns, and the cultivation of hops has also been an important feature in agricultural pursuits.

Much interest is added to the history of Minden by the fact that it contains the remains of one of those ancient fortifications which are not uncommon in central and western New York, but are rare in the eastern part of the state. They indicate that the country was inhabited long prior to the advent of the Indians, and with the exception of similar remains recently discovered in Ephratah, they are the farthest east thus far discovered even by the geologist. They are situated four miles south of Fort Plain, on a promontory in the Otsquaga valley one hundred feet above the stream, the declivities being almost precipitous. Across this promontory at its narrowest part, is a curved line of breastworks two hundred and forty feet in length, inclosing an area of about seven acres. A gigantic pine, six feet in diameter, stands upon one end of



J. M. Wallace

the embankment, giving additional proof that the work must have been of great antiquity.¹

Evidence of Indian occupancy, such as arrowheads and domestic implements, are found in almost every part of the town, which is not surprising when one remembers that many of the most atrocious barbarities were committed in this vicinity both during the French war and the revolution. Minden was formed from Canajoharie, March 2, 1798, and at that time included part of Danube (Herkimer county), which was taken off in 1817. The present town, which contains 27,054 acres, including sections of many early patents: Bleecker patent, 675 acres, granted to Rutger and Nicholas Bleecker, August 14, 1730; Bleecker patent, 4,300 acres, granted to Rutger and Nicholas Bleecker, J. Delancey and J. Haskall, September 22, 1729; Glen patent, 6,000 acres, granted to Jacob Glen and others, August 21, 1753; Gunterman tract, 905 acres, granted to Coonradt Gunterman, October 15, 1753; Herkimer patent, 2,324 acres, granted to J. J. and H. Herkimer, April 13, 1752; Lansing patent, 6,000 acres, granted to Jacob Lansing and others, June 23, 1753; Livingston patent, 20,000 acres, granted to Philip Livingston and nineteen others, February 10, 1762; Otsquaga patent, 4,300 acres, granted to Rutger Bleecker and others, September 22, 1729; Otsquaga patent, 1,637 acres, granted to Weiser, Lawyer and Wagener, July 8, 1725; Van Horne patent, 8,000 acres, granted to Abraham Van Horne and three others, November 13, 1731; and the Windecker's patent, 2,000 acres, granted to Hartman Windecker, November 12, 1731.

Minden, like Canajoharie, was settled by Germans, the earliest coming from Schoharie. A majority of these located in a district still called "Dutchtown," the name being derived from the first inhabitants. Some of these hardy pioneers also settled across the river in Palatine, and on both sides their numbers were gradually increased by immigration, until nearly the entire territory bordering on the Mohawk (afterwards termed the "Canajoharie district"), was peopled by German immigrants. This district extended along the river for some twenty miles, including in its western part the former home of General Herkimer. Among these early settlers were the Devendorffs,

¹ Smithsonian Contributions, Vol. II, Art. 6.

Wagners, Moyers, Bellingers, Sprakers, Kellers, and others whose names are still found in the same locality.

Henry Hayse, a German, taught the first school in Minden, the lessons being in the language of the fatherland. Isaac Paris built the first grist-mill prior to the revolution, and William Seeber kept the first store, probably about 1750. As this was more than a quarter of a century after the first white settlement, it will be seen how well qualified those sturdy Germans must have been to procure subsistence in such a wilderness region. A large stone dwelling was erected in Minden in 1738, for the sons of Governor Clark, but it was soon abandoned, having obtained the unfortunate reputation of being haunted, and very early in the present century was given away on condition that it should be demolished.

John Abeel, an Indian trader, settled in the town in 1748. In his previous intercourse with the Indians he had married the daughter of a Seneca chief, the ceremony being after the Indian fashion. A child of this marriage was the famous chief, Cornplanter. Abeel afterward married a white woman, and at the beginning of the revolution was living on his farm. During the invasion of October, 1780, he was taken prisoner by a band of Indians, and, while momentarily expecting death, Cornplanter addressed him as father, thus securing his safety. He was given the liberty of choosing either to accompany the Indians under the protection of his son or to return to his white family. Much credit is due him for choosing the latter, and after hostilities had ceased, Cornplanter visited him, and was received with much hospitality. Cornplanter is described as being of magnificent proportions and manly bearing. He died at his residence in Pennsylvania, March 7, 1836. Stone (in his life of Brant) says that Cornplanter was more than one hundred years old at the time of his death, but Mr. Webster, of Fort Plain (a descendant of John Abeel), has made the statement that the latter did not make his appearance in the Indian country until 1748, and that Cornplanter was born about 1750. If this statement is correct, the chief's age would have been about thirty when he accompanied the expedition that captured his father, and only sixty-four when he died.

The early settlers of Minden suffered many heart-rending cruelties from the savages during the French and Indian war, and some of these

barbarities are almost too horrible for belief. Near the beginning of the French war (probably not far from the year 1755), John Markell, who had married Anna Timmerman, daughter of a pioneer settler at St. Johnsville, located in the western part of Minden. In 1757, only two years afterward, this unfortunate man, together with his wife and child, became the victims of one of those inhuman murders which so often stained the frontier record. Canadian Indians in small parties had often raided the Mohawk country during the war, and on this occasion they attacked the Markells. John and his wife left their house, she carrying in her arms an infant child. After having proceeded a short distance a band of hostile warriors suddenly appeared only a few rods distant and making directly towards them. Markell saw at a glance the danger threatening both himself and family, and knowing that escape was impossible, he exclaimed, "Anna, unsere zeit ist aus" (Anna, our time is up). His words proved sadly true, for in a moment a bullet passed through his body and penetrated his wife. To him the shot proved fatal and both fell to the ground, but Mrs. Markell, though not killed, had the presence of mind to feign death. In an other moment the band of warriors had surrounded them; Markell was quickly tomahawked and scalped and the Indians were preparing to repeat this barbarity upon the prostrate woman, when one of the party spoke a few words in the Indian tongue, construed by Mrs. Markell to mean, "Better knock her on the head." "No," came a reply from another, "squaw's dead now." Then without further controversy the scalping knife was quickly drawn around the unfortunate woman's head, and the Indian, seizing the scalp between his teeth, quickly tore it off. Another one of the bloodthirsty savages snatched the infant from the ground where it lay crying, and with one swing dashed its brains against a tree. Having thus finished their butchery, the savages proceeded on their journey, leaving all of their victims for dead. It does not seem within the scope of human power to enact the role of death so perfectly as this remarkable woman did even through such a soul-trying ordeal. As soon as the murderers were out of sight, Mrs. Markell made her way to a place of safety and was fortunately soon in the hands of friends. She fully recovered, and within a year or two married Christian Getman, of Ephratah, and lived to relate this wonderful escape to

several succeeding generations. Her death occurred in April, 1821, at which time she was supposed to be eighty-five years of age, fixing her birth about the year 1736. According to these dates she would have been twenty-one years old at the time of her terrible experience with the savages. Among her six children, born after her marriage to Christian Getman, was Peter, the oldest son, who was a pensioner of the revolution.

In common with other towns in the Mohawk valley, the settlements in Minden were ravaged by Brant and Johnson in 1870. At the time of Brant's incursion the men were mostly absent, and the women were shut up in the forts for safety. There were several of these forts located near Fort Plain. The fort which gives the place its name was erected on the summit of a hill half a mile northwest of the village. It was probably built under the direction of Colonel Willett and was considered one of the strongest fortifications in the valley. It has been erroneously stated that this fort was built during the French war, by a French engineer. Colonel Willett, however, was its commander several years and undoubtedly directed its construction. At the time of its erection, Lawrence Gross was a boy living near by. He states that the fort received its name "because, from the eminence upon which it stood, there was such a plain or prospective view." Mr. Gross also said that the workmen who had its erection in charge were permitted to name the fort. It was elevated more than fifty feet above the Mohawk and its palisade enclosed about one-third of an acre, with an entrance upon the southeasterly side. In the diagonally opposite corners of this enclosure were erected two small block-houses each containing cannon and projecting far enough to command two sides of the fort. Within a distance of two or three rods, on the side of the hill was a living spring which was a great boon to the garrison. It is not known who was first in command, but Colonel Willett was certainly there during the summer of 1780 and 1781, and then occupied the most eastern of three or four little huts built on the side of the hill below the pickets, and within a short distance of the spring. Their erection was required by the limited amount of room within the palisades, which was far too small to accommodate the tenements which sheltered the families that sought protection.

When the depredations and outrages committed by the Indians and Tories, under the command of Brant, Butler and Johnson, had become so frequent and horrible, it became necessary to increase the accommodations of Fort Plain and also to strengthen its fortifications. It was at this time that the octagonal block-house was erected there, having three stories, each projecting over the one below. In the lower story was a cannon, which was fired to notify the people when danger was at hand. Loopholes dotted its several sides and were used for musketry firing. This block-house, which stood on a knoll some twenty rods southwest of the palisaded enclosure, is believed to be the first of its kind on the early frontier. One writer has confounded this fort with another called "Fort Plank," assuming that they were one and the same. This, however, was not the case, for the latter was a distinct fortification, situated nearly four miles southwest of Fort Plain.

Captain Robert McKean, a partisan officer of acknowledged merit from the Cherry Valley settlement, and who received a fatal wound in the New Dorlach or Sharon battle (in 1780), was brought to Fort Plain on a litter at his own request, but he died in a day or two and was buried near the fort. It has been stated that Captain McKean died and was buried in Freysbush, but the late Lawrence Gross, whose father was also a captain in the Sharon battle, said that he was present at the interment of Captain McKean's remains, and that they were disinterred and buried with military honors, on the brow of the hill, in front of the block-house. This took place directly after the completion of the latter, which is supposed to have been in the spring of 1781. Since the middle of the century a farm road has been made along the crest of the hill, beginning near the site of this historic fort, and the knoll upon which it stood has been considerably leveled by the plow.

Fort Plank, which was another historic place of defence, occupied, as has been stated, a commanding position on elevated ground four miles southwest of Fort Plain and was originally the residence of a respectable German family whose name it bore. A number of the descendants of the Plank family are residents of the Mohawk valley at the present day. The fort comprised a block-house and also a palisade, which surrounded a dwelling known for many years after as the Chauncey House place, and in later years owned by Reuben Failing, and occupied by his son

Joseph. The fortification of the place is said to have been made in 1777, one year after the erection of Forts Plain, Herkimer and Dayton, and it is very probable that a number of soldiers were constantly stationed there during the war. Many families in the adjoining country were compelled to flee to the fort for safety, the signal of danger being the firing of the cannon. An interesting story is told by Jephtha R. Simms, of the pluck of a man who had been captured by the Indians and yet finally escaped and reached Fort Plain in safety. He was taken prisoner in the neighborhood of the fort in 1781, and when night came his savage captors, seven in number, halted in a deserted log tenement. After cooking and eating a scanty supper the Indians ranged themselves on the floor of the cabin and talked of their recent raid, complaining that but little plunder had been secured and but one prisoner. Thus filled with dissatisfaction at their exploits, they resolved to hold a powwow on the following morning, kill and scalp the prisoner and return to the Mohawk where they expected richer booty. All this must have been indeed harrowing to the prisoner, who understood perfectly every word the Indians had uttered.

At length the Indians laid down upon the floor, not, however, until they had securely bound and fastened their captive with cords and also placed him between two of their number. The savages soon appeared to be fast asleep, although the despairing white man, prone upon the ground, in the dimly lighted room, had no means of knowing whether or not some one was serving as sentinel. For him sleep was out of the question and his mind was filled with fevered visions of the approaching torture he was doomed soon to receive. In moving one of his hands about upon the floor, in the midst of his unhappy thoughts, it accidentally touched a piece of broken window glass.

In a moment the way of escape presented itself to his mind. There was no time to meditate upon the risk of being discovered; death in any case seemed to stare him in the face. Firmly grasping the piece of glass he began rapidly drawing its sharp edges across the rope that bound his breast and thighs. Twice he faltered, not knowing whether the keen eye of the foe might not then be fixed upon him. Twice he resumed his efforts to sever the bonds that kept him captive and at last the remaining strand parted and he sat upright and gazed about him.

Not a sound or movement could he hear or see, except the heavy breathing of his sleeping enemies.

He then approached the door and cautiously stepped outside. Being aware of the fact that the Indians had left a watch dog near the entrance, he made a dash and ran across the clear field to the woods some twenty rods distant, not, however, without making his presence known to the dog, which followed close, barking loudly. As the poor fugitive neared the forest the Indians, who had by this time began the pursuit, fired at him. Just then his foot caught in a root and he fell, thereby thus escaping the volley which at that very moment passed over his head. Crawling rapidly into the woods he discovered a hollow log in which he secreted himself, and finally escaped and reached Fort Plain in safety.

Fort Clyde was another palisaded enclosure, which occupied high ground on the farm of Henry H. Nellis, about two miles southeast of the village of Fort Plain. It was probably built in 1777 and received its name from Colonel Clyde, a brave and judicious officer, who came from Cherry Valley and rendered valuable services throughout the war. It is highly probable that General Washington, when on his journey from New York to the frontier posts in 1782, stopped for a short time at Fort Clyde. He went from Fort Plain to Cherry Valley, thus passing this fort on the way. As a reward for valuable services, Colonel Clyde was afterwards appointed sheriff of Montgomery county by Governor Clinton, who acted upon the suggestion of General Washington, that the colonel should be remembered for his valiant services.

Among the other palisaded enclosures, which served as places of safety for defenceless families at that time of peril, was Fort Willett, situated a little more than four miles from Fort Plain, on land owned during later years by William Zimmerman. It was probably completed during the fall of 1780, under the direction of Colonel Willett, who, when the work was finished, rode out with a squad of men to take an inspection of it. Expressing himself as much pleased with the fortification (which comprised a number of huts and two block houses surrounded by a palisade), he said: "You have a nice little fort here; what do you call it?" He was told that as yet it had received no name, and it was suggested that the colonel should select one. "Well" replied

he, "this is one of the nicest little forts on the frontier, and you may call it after me if you please." This suggestion at once met the approval of the local inhabitants who greeted the name of Fort Willett with a cheer.

Situated between Fort Herkimer and Fort Plain, and some seven or eight miles from the latter, was the house of Johannes Windecker, a German and strong friend of the colonists. Early in the war his house was palisaded and called Fort Windecker. Inside the enclosure was also erected a small block-house which was supplied with a signal gun, and in this convenient military post many families sought refuge when the torch and firebrand of the dreaded Brant and Johnson scoured the Schoharie and Mohawk valleys. Thus, during the latter part of the revolution, Minden contained five strongholds of defence, in which were sheltered many of the ancestors of those families which are now so prominent in the same vicinity.

Without entering into the details of border warfare, it seems appropriate to mention the names of a few of the old Minden patriots who were conspicuous for their services in the patriotic cause. Among these were several members of the Bellinger family (Frederick, Christian, Jacob and Peter), the last three captured by the Indians, Jacob and Peter being tomahawked and scalped, while Christian was placed in bondage as a slave and held three years. Castina Bellinger was taken to Canada by Indians when three years old and lived there until grown into womanhood, marrying and raising a family. John Brookman, was carried to Canada by the Indians and while there was compelled to run the gauntlet, while John Dievendorff, escaping after two years captivity, returned home in safety. Henry Dievendorff was shot at Oriskany by an Indian, but was immediately avenged by William Cox, who killed the Indian with a bullet. Jacob Dievendorff did excellent service and was made captain, holding the rank until the close of the war. We also add the names of a few Minden men who passed through some thrilling experiences during the revolution. Among these were George Davis, John Dillenbeck, John Peter Duncker and George, his brother, Major John Eisenlord, Cornelius Flint, Peter Flagg, Henry J. Failing, John Gremps, and his brother Peter, Christian Hufnail, Peter H. House, Samuel Howe, Rudolph Keller, Peter and John Lambert, Adam and John

Lipe, George Lambert, Moses Lowell, Francis Lighthall, Isaac Miller, John Miller, Jacob Matthews, Jacob and Henry Moyer ; Nicholas Pace, John Roof, Henry and Peter Sitts, Barbara Schenck, and Mrs. Dr. Frame ; Peter Snell, Henry Sanders, Peter and John Snyder, Henry Seeber, Henry Timmerman, Giles Van Vost, Nicholas Van Slyke, Jacob Wagner, Joseph H. Wiles, Henry Waffle, Jacob Walrath, George Youker, Adam, John and Nancy Yorden, Christian Young and Henry Galler.

During these war times the inhabitants could neither establish mills, schools or churches, as all such buildings invited the incursions of the enemy. Hence it is remarkable then that the early settlers engaged in traffic, even to a limited extent. It is found, however, that during the brief peace that intervened between the French war and the revolution, some shrewd traders engaged in bartering with the Indians for furs and skins, and also for ginseng, and not a few of these early traders settled in Minden.

William Seeber, a German, kept the first store of which there is any definite knowledge, in the town. It was located near the Sand Hill church on the place occupied in latter years by Adam Lipe, and was opened about 1750. Seeber was a major of militia and, together with his son Rudolph and Captain Jacob W., fought in the battle of Oriskany, all of them receiving fatal wounds.

After the revolution Isaac Paris was the first merchant in the town. He began trading in 1786 in a large house erected by himself, in which he lived and did business. It was located in Fort Plain, being afterward known as the "Bleecker House," and was built of heavy timber. Paris was engaged in trade on the Mohawk, transporting his wares on boats, and was known as a very fair and honest dealer. In the *Gazetteer* of 1824, Spafford, speaking of the town of Paris, Oneida county, refers to the generous Paris in the following words : " This town was named in honor of a Mr. Paris, at the request of the inhabitants. In 1789, 'the year of scarcity,' which some of us well remember, when the settlements in this quarter were in a feeble, infant state, Isaac Paris, then a merchant in Fort Plain, on the Mohawk, supplied the inhabitants with Virginia corn on a liberal credit, and took in payment, ginseng, and anything he could get, supplying our necessities in

kindest manner, for which in gratitude, when the town was erected, we requested to have it named Paris." Spafford adds, "Traits of this character I love to record."

Conrad Gansevoort, who came to Minden from Schenectady about 1790, was the next merchant in the town. His place of business was a combination store and dwelling which he erected at the foot of Sand Hill, on the farm more recently owned by Seeber Lipe. Gansevoort remained in Minden for nearly twenty years, and then retiring with a competency, returned to his former home in Schenectady. Contemporary with Gansevoort were the three Oothout brothers, Garrett, Jonas and Volkert, who came also from Schenectady and located about a mile and a quarter west of the village of Fort Plain. There on the south side of the river road, they erected a large two story building used jointly as a store and dwelling. One corner of the old structure, which was some thirty feet in length, was undermined by the construction of the canal. Garrett, the oldest of the three brothers, although blind, was remarkably shrewd and could instantly tell the value of a coin by the touch. The firm did a large business for those days, wholesaling some goods to less extensive merchants, and sending large quantities of wheat down the river in boats to Albany. Jonas lived in the store building. He married Maria Fox, and had two daughters, Lydia and Maria. The former married Peter J. Wagner, and is remembered as a most estimable character. Another brother of the Oothouts, Abraham by name, was not engaged in the mercantile trade, but settled near them on a farm.

Robert McFarlan, who came to Minden from Paulet (Vermont), began business a few rods from the Sand Hill Reformed Dutch church, on the opposite side of the road, about 1798. He was a remarkably able business man, and was generally liked and esteemed. He married the daughter of Major House, an influential resident, and this alliance undoubtedly added greatly to his business. His genial ways and gentlemanly bearing gained him an entrance into the society of the period, and he also held the rank of colonel of militia. His name is commemorated on a slab in the old burying-ground of the Sand Hill church, which bears these words: "In memory of Robert McFarlan, Esq., who departed this life July 14, 1813, in the forty-ninth year of his age."

Henry M. Bleecker, a young Albanian, who had served as clerk for Conrad Gansevoort, succeeded to the business about 1808. He died young and David Lipe and Rufus Firman then carried on the Gansevoort store. They are supposed to have been the last merchants to occupy it. Among other merchants who were engaged in trade early in the present century may be mentioned. John Lipe, Abraham Dievendorff, Henry, his brother; John Dygert and John Roth.

To the churches of Minden are unquestionably due much of the social development, and the lessons of the early preachers have influenced the character of later generations. Hence the writer may properly here review the early Minden churches, giving as accurately as possible their location and date.

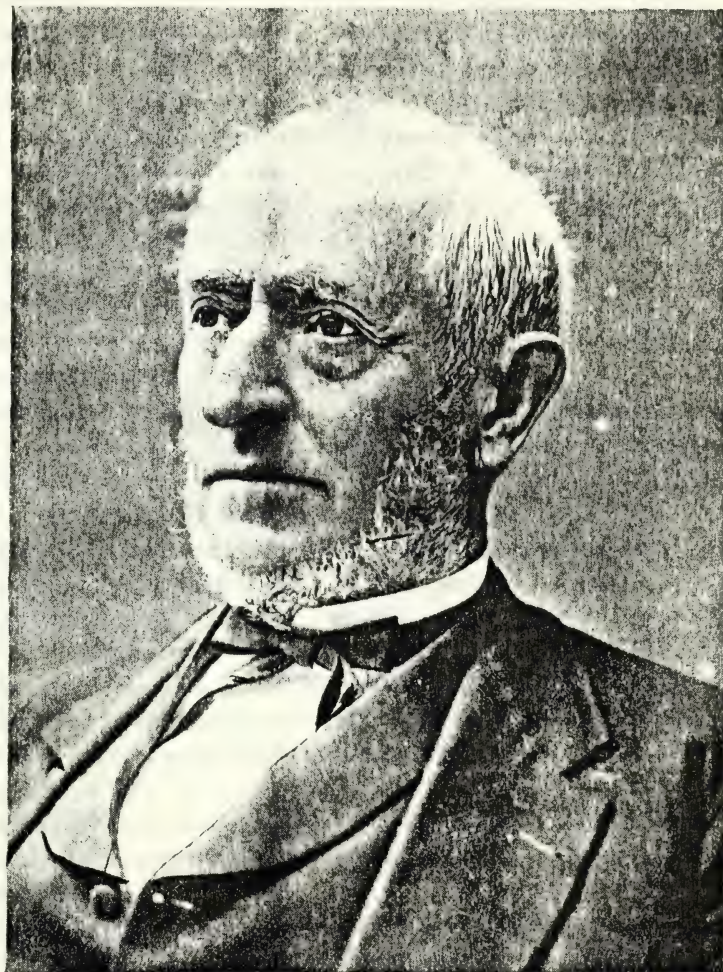
The earliest church within the present limits of the town, was erected in 1750 and known as the Reformed Dutch church of Canajoharie. It stood on Sand Hill, a short distance above the Abeel place on the Dutchtown road, and was burned during the invasion of Brant in 1780. The first preacher was Rev. Abraham Rosencrantz, who remained eight years, and conducted services entirely in German. Dominie Gros, who was in charge of the congregation at the time the church was destroyed, afterward preached in a barn on the William Lipe farm. This old barn was torn down to give place to a new one in 1859. At the close of the war a much better church was erected on the same site, being also constructed of wood, and services were continued there until about 1816. This church is described as being "graced with a steeple without a bell," and having galleries upon three sides. It was built by Peter March for the sum of one thousand pounds. The death of General Washington was observed in this church in the latter part of December, 1799, with solemn and impressive ceremonies. Among the ministers at this ancient church succeeding Pastor Rosencrantz were Rev. Ludwig Luppe, Rev. Mr. Kennige, Rev. J. F. Preffle, and from 1788 to 1796 Rev. A. Christian Diedrich Peck. In 1796 came the Rev. Daniel Gros, who previous to that time had been a professor of moral philosophy in Columbia College. From 1800 to 1803 this church, together with those at Canajoharie, Stone Arabia and Sharon, were supplied by the Rev. Isaac Labaugh. He was succeeded by Rev. J. I. Wack, a man of surpassing personal appearance, and who had filled the

position of army chaplain during the war of 1812. He remained until 1816, and was "probably the last minister of the old Sand Hill church." In 1834 the society built a church in the village of Fort Plain.

Two churches came into existence in the lower part of the town very early in the present century, their origin being due chiefly to the preaching of John Christopher Wieting, a native of Germany. While attending the university at the age of eighteen, he was pressed into the British service, and afterward made a prisoner at Saratoga. Resolving to become an American citizen, he settled at Greenbush, and later on moved to Minden, where he at once began preaching the doctrine of Martin Luther. As a result of his labors a church was established at "Squawke" (a contraction of Otsquaga), a small hamlet near the source of the creek bearing that name. Within seven or eight miles was another church located at Geissenberg, and dedicated about the year 1706, Rev. Philip Krutz conducting the services. Both churches were under the spiritual guidance of Pastor Wieting until the time of his death, which occurred February 17, 1817, when he was about fifty-eight years of age. With the cessation of the earnest work of Mr. Wieting, the churches became inactive and eventually fell into disuse, and all traces of both structures have long since passed away.

At Fordsbush, in the southwest corner of the town, a Universalist church was organized in 1838 and the house of worship erected soon after was rebuilt and enlarged in 1874, the re-dedicatory services taking place in December of that year. Among the pastors of this church will be remembered John D. Hicks, D. C. Tomlinson, T. L. Harris, Adolphus Skinner, J. H. Harter, A. B. Grosh, O. K. Crosby, G. W. Skinner, T. L. Hathaway, Daniel Ballou, C. C. Richardson, H. H. Baker, W. G. Anderson, A. C. Barry, Q. L. Shinn, O. Cone, R. L. Lansing, E. E. Peck, J. W. Lamoine, James Ballou, and a number of others. The Lutheran church at Fordsbush has also had an active membership. "Mount Hope" Cemetery, at the same place is a picturesque burying-ground and ably managed by an association organized in May, 1862. It contains very many handsome monuments.

At Freysbush, a small village situated on historic ground in the eastern part of the town, and two miles south of Fort Plain, are also two churches, Lutheran and Methodist. The former was organized at the



George Post Egg

house of John Dunkel, June 28, 1834, the nine persons which formed the society at that time taking the name of "The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Freysbush." The first elders were Daniel Ottman, Andrew Roof, and William Reagles. In 1835 the church became connected with the Hartwick Synod, having fifty-five members at the time. In 1837 the church became a member of the Franckean Synod, which was formed that year, and in 1841 a house of worship was erected at a cost of about \$1,000. It has subsequently been enlarged and remodeled, and in 1868 a parsonage was added at a cost of \$2,500. During the first twenty years' existence of the Sunday-school, which was organized in 1841, William Reagles was superintendent.

Methodist services were held at Freysbush as early as 1812, and since 1847 the church has been a separate charge. Prior to the last mentioned date it formed at different times a part of the Otsego, Litchfield, Sharon, and Canajoharie circuits. During the first seventeen years of the society's history, it belonged to the Genesee Conference. In 1829 it entered the Oneida Conference, remaining there for forty years. It became a member of the Central New York Conference in 1869, and from 1873 until 1877 it belonged to the Northern New York Conference. It then became a member of the Troy Conference, to which it still belongs. Rev. George Gary, who among others has filled this pastorate, will be remembered by a few of the older residents as a noble character and a good preacher, one whose memory is held in high esteem. The original house of worship used by this society was the first Methodist church built in the town of Minden.

Passing from the religious history of the rural districts to that of Fort Plain, it now seems suitable to give a view of the organization of the town.

Beginning with the formation of Minden, which took place March 2, 1798, we find that all records pertaining to election of town officers, laying out roads, building bridges and schools, points of deep interest in the early history of a community, have been lost. We are thus prevented from chronicling the useful men who did important service in those early times. The records, however, from 1810 to 1846 and also from 1860 to the present time are complete, which enables us to give a

later list of the supervisors, which is as follows: Richard Van Horne, 1810-15; Felix Green, 1816-17; Isaac Ellwood, 1817-19; Robert Hall, 1820; Isaac Ellwood, 1821; George D. Ferguson, 1822-23; Henry D. Van Camp, 1824-25; Isaac Ellwood, 1826-27; Nathan Soule, 1828-29; Henry Adams, 1830-31; Peter H. Keller, 1832; Daniel C. Ellis, 1833; William Abeel, 1834-35; William A. Haslett, 1836-37; John D. Zolier, 1838-40; James Diefendorf, 1841; John D. Zoller, 1842; John H. Moyer, 1843; William Clark, 1844-46; Simeon Tingue, 1860; Addis Dievendorff, 1861-62; Henry Adams, 1863; James H. Congdon, 1864; Alfred J. Wagner, 1865-68; Jacob Zoller, 1869-72; Solomon Zoller, 1873-74; Peter D. Moyer, 1875-76; John D. Brookman, 1877; Alonzo E. Hall, 1878-80; Michael R. Kelhi, 1881-84; Jacob J. Dievendorff, 1885-87; Adam L. Failing, 1888-89; Henry Wagner, jr., 1890; R. Simon Bulger, 1891-92.

Town clerks during corresponding periods have been as follows: Charles Pomeroy, 1810-13; James Joyce, 1814-15; Isaac Ellwood, 1816-17; George D. Ferguson, 1817; Peter Moyer, 1818-19; Adam Walradt, 1820-22; William H. Burwell, 1823; Peter H. Keller, 1824-26; Abraham Dievendorff, 1827; John Diefendorf, 1828; John Zoller, 1829-31; John H. Moyer, 1832; John Diefendorf, 1833; John D. Zoller, 1834-35; George D. Countryman, 1836-37; Moses Smith, 1838; James Genter, 1839-40; Solomon Smith, 1841-42; Clark L. Charlesworth, 1843; Joel Lipe, 1844-45; Gilbert Warner, 1846; Robert Patten, 1860; Dewitt C. Schults, 1861-62; Rufus Lipe, 1863; Walter Keller, 1864; George S. Dievendorff, 1865; John E. Reid, 1866-67; B. Steuben Hotaling, 1868; Menzo C. Reid, 1869; John P. Grant, 1870-72; Alonzo E. Hall, 1873-74; Albert Diefendorf, 1875; Charles S. Tanner, 1876-77; Charles Beck, 1878; William Yerdon, 1879; Henry G. Martin, 1880-81; William H. Selwood, 1821; Charles E. Ehle, 1883; William H. Selwood, 1884; Charles E. Ehle, 1885; Charles E. Wick, 1886-87; George W. Packard, 1888; William F. Geesler, 1889; Clarence J. Norton, 1890-91; F. A. Martin, 1892.

The present officers of the town are as follows: Supervisor, R. Simon Bulger; town clerk, F. A. Martin; justices of the peace, Harvey Fikes, Daniel N. Place, Irving Moyer, Julius Pickard; assessors, Jacob Zimmerman, Henry Glosser, William Dillenback; auditors, Harvey Wick,

Robert Smith; commissioner of highways, Isaac Zoller; overseer of the poor, George L. Thurwood; collector, Charles Walrath; excise commissioners, Edward Brookman, Rufus Failing, John P. Casler.

The present equalized valuation of real estate of Minden is \$2,549,-865; personal estate, \$421,750; on which the total state and county tax for 1881 was \$13,369.40. The town is divided into eighteen school districts, in which were taught 971 school children in 1891, out of a total of 1,206 living in the town. The total number of weeks kept was 639, and the average daily attendance during the year was 605. Twenty-five teachers were employed, the total amount of their salaries aggregating \$8,812.32. The school property in the town, exclusive of libraries, is valued at \$26,555. In the libraries are 971 volumes the total value of which is \$590.

VILLAGE OF FORT PLAIN.

Deep historic interest attaches to the village of Fort Plain, both from the fact of its having received the name of that celebrated military post (built in 1776) within half a mile of which the present village is located, and also owing to the thrilling scenes which it witnessed. Much interest is also centered in the noted officers and heroes of the revolution, who were stationed in that palisaded enclosure. Mention has been made in preceding pages of a large stone house built within the town of Minden during the last century for the sons of Governor Clark. This dwelling was the first one erected upon the site of the village, and at the time it was built (1738) the surrounding forests shrouded the country for miles around in almost impenetrable gloom. Few white men indeed had then traversed the spot now occupied by the busy scenes of Fort Plain. It was in that year that William Johnson, then an obscure young man penetrated the wilderness to take charge of his uncle's lands at Fort Hunter. At such a time George Clark, governor of the colony of New York from 1736 to 1743, hoping to remove his sons from the temptations of the city, built this stately but solitary mansion. It is described as being a two story edifice with a hall passing through the center, on either side of which was a large square room. A broad stairway with white oak banisters and easy steps led to the second story. The stone used in the construction of the house, which had a

frontage of nearly forty feet, and four chimneys of the same material, was taken from the bed of the neighboring creek. The governor established a landing on the river's bank, and it is supposed that frequent trips were made by himself and family, on which occasions visits were made to the distinguished families living along the river, such as the Herkimers, Foxes and Freys. It is also said that Governor Clark brought to his wilderness home a number of goats, and being allowed their liberty they strayed away and after diligent search were found upon an eminence several miles from Fort Plain, which ever after has been known as Geissenberg or goat hill. The Clarks, however, became discontented with their Mohawk home, and after a few years the entire family returned to New York. In 1807 Dr. Joshua Webster and Jonathan Stickney built a tannery on the opposite side of the creek, and used the stone of the old Clark house in its construction. Upon the foundation of the once haunted house Colonel Robert Crouse built the dwelling more recently owned by A. J. Wagner.

Isaac Paris, jr., to whom reference has been made, bought the Clark farm (in 1787) and erected there a dwelling and store. He was the first to engage in mercantile trade in the village, and during the few years that he devoted to the business he became widely known for his integrity and humanity. He died in 1790 at the age of twenty-nine. On the 1st day of October, 1880, after ninety years, his remains were removed from Fort Plain to the town of Paris, Oneida county, where they were reinterred with appropriate honors under the auspices of the Oneida Historical Society. Addresses were delivered on this occasion by C. W. Hutchinson, Lorenzo Rouse, Professor North and others, this tribute being due to his kindness in supplying the settlers with food as has been previously mentioned. In addition to his great generosity and noble character, Paris was of fine personal appearance and the great esteem in which he was held led to his election for several terms to the legislature. The Clark farm passed from Paris into the hands of George Crouse, jr., who paid for it in wheat at eighteen cents per skipple (three pecks), he having been advised to make this purchase by Colonel Willett, who was at that time a member of his household.

Just north of the Crouse place lived Peter Young. The exact location of his residence in 1788 was where the late H. E. Williams after-

ward built his beautiful mansion. Next north of Crouse lived Johannes Lipe. During the revolution he owned the land on which the defences of Fort Plain were erected. The property afterward came into the possession of his son David, and more recently into that of David's son, Seeber Lipe. With the consent of the latter, small marble monuments were, in August, 1882, placed upon the site of the historic structures. One stone designates the site of the original fort erected in 1776, and the other the block-house, built in 1781. The monuments were placed in position by Seeber Lipe, Homer N. Lockwood, Harvey Wick, and Jephtha R. Simms. Present at the time was the late Peter J. Wagner, then in his eighty-eighth year, and who remembered having seen the block-house when a boy.

John Abeel, an Indian trader, and who had spent some time among the Senecas, settled, as has been mentioned, within a short distance of Fort Plain about 1757. He secured several hundred acres of land of one of the grantees of the Bleecker patent, and having erected a stone dwelling upon a knoll directly above the flats, he married, on September 22, 1759, Mary Knouts, a member of one of the prominent German families. His house, together with the early church which stood near it and also the house of William Seeber, was burned in August, 1780, while he himself was an Indian captive. It was at this time that he was recognized by his son, Cornplanter, and liberated. After the war closed Abeel erected another house on the same site.

Cornplanter visited Fort Plain in his native dress about the year 1810, bringing with him several Indians of dignified rank. They were cordially welcomed by the chief's relatives, going first to the house of Joseph Wagner, father of Peter J. Wagner, who was a grandson on the mother's side of John Abeel. The party also visited the house of Nicholas Dygert, whose wife was a sister of Mrs. Wagner, and was richly entertained; and then at the home of Jacob Abeel, living with his widowed mother on the old homestead, the Indians were treated with hospitality. The visit lasted several days and the guests were the central attraction of village society, for Cornplanter was a man of noble bearing, and was decorated with all the native display of costume appropriate to his rank. His father had, at that time, been dead more than a dozen years.

Isaac Soule kept a small tavern in the village in 1804. At that time there were very few buildings of any kind in the place, and in the following year (1805) Joseph Wagner opened a public house which was kept as a hotel until 1850, and was then converted into a private residence. Later on it became the property of Andrew Dunn. The old tavern of Isaac Soule was reopened as a store by John C. Lipe about 1808; it also contained at that time a tailor shop.

Among the very early professional men may be mentioned Dr. Joshua Webster, who came from Scarsborough, Me., about 1797, when still a young man. He married Catharine, a daughter of Joseph Wagner, whose father, Peter Wagner, was a lieutenant-colonel during the revolution. Dr. Webster became a resident of Fort Plain in its very early infancy, and passed a long and useful life, filling many important positions in public and society. At the time of his death, which occurred in 1849, at the age of seventy-eight years, he was president of the Fort Plain bank.

Peter J. Wagner, son of Joseph Wagner, was the first settled lawyer in the village. He was a man of marked ability; always prominent in affairs of public interest and anxious for the welfare of his townsmen. He represented Montgomery county in congress in 1839 and 1841, and lived to an advanced age, witnessing the transformation of Fort Plain from a hamlet of less than a dozen houses, to the flourishing village of recent years.

Fort Plain received its first pronounced impetus during the five or six years following the completion of the Erie canal. In 1824 Henry P. Voorhees erected a store on the bank of the creek, in the rear of Lipe's crockery store. In 1826 John D. Diefendorf built one on the berme bank of the canal, and during the same year John Warner built and opened a store where John A. Walrath has more recently conducted business. The justly celebrated historian, Simms, who made the village his home during a great portion of his life, aptly describes the celebration in Fort Plain, upon the completion of "Clinton's Ditch," as the canal was frequently called, and mentions among those who were gathered at the sumptuous dinner in the Wagner House, "several Foxes Grosses, Wagners, Hackneys, Marvin, Ferguson, Adams, Cole, Belding, Mabee, Diefendorfs, Crouses, Lipes, Dygerts, Ellis, Nellises, Abeels,

Seebers, Ver Planks, Washburns, Moyers, Caslers, Clums, Failings, Roof, Furman, Langdon, Warner, Cuning, and others." This list will give the modern reader an idea of many of the family names of Fort Plain in 1825.

What a change, however, in the past three score years! How few of those then living would recognize Fort Plain could they behold its dwellings and places of business of to-day. Possibly no better idea can be conveyed of the gradual but sure growth of the place, than by giving its population at a few stated intervals since its incorporation, April 25, 1832. At that time there were probably not more than 400 inhabitants; in 1860 this number had increased to 1,592, and at present a moderate estimate places the population at 3,000.

For many years, and in fact until the completion of the Albany and Binghamton railroad, Fort Plain was the outlet of trade for a large region of country lying to the south, and this contributed in no small degree to the prosperity of the place. The project of a railroad from Richfield Springs to Fort Plain has been agitated more or less during the past few years, and there are strong evidences at present that it will soon be in operation.

Substantial manufacturing interests always tend toward the prosperity of a community. In this line Fort Plain has been quite favored, offering pleasant and comfortable homes to the working classes, and unsurpassed shipping facilities for the manufacturers, of whom we shall have more to say later on in this work.

The first two years' record of corporate existence of Fort Plain is missing. The trustees, in 1834, were Henry Adams, Daniel Cooler, Daniel F. Curtis, Adam A. Nestle and William A. Haslett. Andrew Zimmerman was clerk, and Chester L. Simms treasurer. Among those who served as trustees from 1840 down until the middle of the century and later, will be remembered Simeon Tingue, Solomon Norton; Nathan Davis, William E. Bleecker, Jacob B. Flint, John H. Moyer, Barney Becker, Gilbert Warner, James Alpin, Daniel Gros, John Darrow, William C. Noxon, John L. Switz, Josiah Plank, William Crouse, Nicholas A. Van Alstine and Solomon Smith. The present officers are: President, John A. Roof; trustees, Thomas Williams, David Ostrom, H. S. Wemple and Ferd. Smith; treasurer, Edwin C. Norton; clerk, James A. Wendell; collector, John Carl.

The present efficient water works were built in 1885.

Fort Plain Church History.—A review of the old Sand Hill church has been presented to the reader on preceding pages, and we now proceed to the Methodist Society. It was first organized as a class June 24, 1832, at which time Rev. Jonas Diefendorf and Rev. Eleazur Whipple, two preachers belonging to the Canajoharie circuit, and Rev. George Harmon (presiding elder), gathered thirteen members together, among whom were Solomon Countryman, the leader, and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Wendell, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Davis. Three years later, September, 1835, the class had increased to thirty members, and Peter A. Brumfield was leader. The society received the services of several preachers on the Canajoharie circuit, being at one time a part of that charge, and at another that of Palatine Bridge. In 1844 it became a separate charge, with a resident pastor. Among the pastors who officiated during the society's early history will be remembered such well known preachers of that day as James Kelsey, Abraham Diefendorf, James P. Backus, Isaac Grant, Edwin Dennison and John Padham. During the interval between 1839 and 1852 Cyrus Meeker, Clark Fuller, Thomas Armitage, Hiram Chase and others officiated. In 1852 the charge was transferred from the Troy to the Oneida Conference, but again returned to the former in 1860. Among the pastors who came subsequent to 1852 may be mentioned Robert Fox, J. T. Wright, Selah Stocking, Homer Eaton, Bostwick Hawley, T. Dwight Walker, William Ryan, I. C. Fenton, and others. The present pastor is Rev. E. H. Brown, having been appointed to the charge in April, 1892. Services were at first held occasionally in the Sand Hill church, and later on in dwellings and also in a brick building at the corner of Canal and Main streets. The district school-house was afterward occupied by the society prior to 1842. The first regular house of worship was dedicated February 20, 1845, and was enlarged and rededicated in 1854. The present beautiful structure was built in 1880.

Universalist Church.—A number of persons professing this doctrine first organized themselves into a religious body in Fort Plain April 6, 1833, under the name of the Universalist Society of Minden. The trustees elected were Jacob Hand, Daniel Gros, John Light-hall, Henry Cook and Henry S. Moyer. Solomon Sanders was clerk and Jacob Hand treasurer. Steps were at once taken toward build-

ing a house of worship, which was finished and dedicated December 25th of the same year. It has since then been twice remodeled, once in 1855 and again in 1874, on December 30th of which year re-dedication services were held. Among the early pastors of the society may be mentioned Job Potter, Jesse Bushnell, L. C. Browne, J. D. Hicks, H. B. Soule, A. C. Barry, H. L. Hayward, G. W. Gage, A. B. Grosh, C. E. Hews, H. H. Baker, Adolphus Skinner, B. L. Bennett, E. W. Fuller, and a few others. The present pastor is Rev. E. A. Perry.

The Reformed Church of Fort Plain.—This society originally worshipped in the old church on Sand Hill, as stated elsewhere. In 1834, the village having attained considerable size, it was deemed advisable to remove the place of worship thither, and accordingly a church was erected within its limits. Just as the building was finished it unfortunately took fire from a defective stove-pipe and was destroyed. Another house of worship was built of brick in its stead the following year, and in 1871 this was enlarged and remodeled at a cost of \$13,000. Among the pastors who have officiated since the congregation has been located at Fort Plain, may be mentioned N. Bogardus, Arthur Burtis, John Page Pepper, S. Van Vechten, C. G. McLean, M. L. Schenck, J. G. Hall, G. D. Consaul, W. Whittaker, Alexander B. Briggs, Samuel J. Rogers, and others. The present pastor is Rev. E. A. McCullum. The present brick church, which was built in 1887, is an ornament to the village.

Lutheran Church.—The Lutherans of Fort Plain, first held meetings in 1842 at private houses. On these occasions the Rev. G. Saul, a visiting clergyman, officiated. The society first erected a church in 1853, at which time Rev. Mr. Roll was pastor. Since then their pulpit has been filled by a number of able clergymen, among whom is the present pastor, Theodore Krug. The church now occupied was built in 1874.

The Baptist Society.—Organized the present year (1892), is holding services in the Shinaman block, pending the erection of a house of worship. Their pastor is W. E. Darrow, a graduate of Hamilton College.

The Protestant Episcopal church is located on Prospect Hill, and has about seventy communicants. The pastor is Rev. Clarence E. Ball, of Canajoharie.

St. James Roman Catholic church is under the spiritual guidance of Rev. J. Bloomer, of Canajoharie.

The Clinton Liberal and Military Institute, first known as the Fort Plain Seminary and Collegiate Institute, was erected by a stock company, with a capital of \$32,000, in 1853, and is one of the best educational institutions in the state. It was chartered by the Regents of the University October 20th of the same year, the late Peter J. Wagner being the first president of the board of trustees. Rev. Alonzo Flack was the lessee of the institution, and Principal Rev. Joseph E. King and Preceptress Miss Angelina Ensign, with thirteen additional teachers, formed its first corps of education. The first scholastic year of the school began auspiciously November 7, 1853, with 515 students. The vacancy caused by the resignation of Professor King was filled November 9, 1854, by Rev. James E. Latimer. Among the prominent principals and instructors of this institution of learning will be remembered such well known educators as W. H. Bannister, Charles W. Bennett, Benjamin I. Diefendorf and Rev. Abraham Mattice. The present principal is Charles V. Parsell, and there are now about 155 students. The institute is conducted by the Universalists. Excellent judgment was exhibited in selecting an elevated site for the building, affording pure air and good drainage, two features of vital importance in educational structures.

The Press.—Fort Plain is honored by its record in journalism, for though it was marked by difficulties; its tone has always been elevated. In 1827 S. N. S. Grant started the *Fort Plain Watch Tower*, and continued it until 1829, when it came into the hands of John Calhoun, and in 1830 editor Platt took it and changed the name to the *Fort Plain Sentinel*, but it soon proved a failure.

The *Fort Plain Gazette*, first issued in 1834 by Henry L. Gross, was continued by him until 1836. The *Fort Plain Journal* first saw the light in 1836 under the direction of E. W. Gill, who, with his successors, among whom were William L. Fish, Levi S. Backus (a deaf mute), and Wendell & Sansell, published the paper until 1855, when it was changed to the *Mohawk Valley Register*. During the last named year Sansell sold his interest to D. S. Kellogg, and he in 1856 sold to C. W. Webster. Webster & Wendell were the publishers until May 12, 1859.

when Mr. Wendell retired and was succeeded by a series of owners during the ensuing five or six years. Angell Matthewson secured an interest in the paper in 1860, and the firm of Webster & Matthewson issued it until July, 1865, when the former retired, leaving the enterprise in a flourishing condition. Mr. Matthewson sold the plant in 1868 to Elliott & Bowen, and the former parted with his interest in 1872 to Charles Bowen. The paper was purchased in March, 1876, by Horace L. Greene, who conducted it until his death, in October, 1891. The paper is now owned by his heirs, and is managed by his son, Nelson B. Greene.

The *Fort Plain Free Press*, a weekly Republican journal, was first issued April 8, 1884, by A. L. and H. C. Diefendorf. The present publisher is Harvey C. Diefendorf. The paper is issued every Tuesday.

The *Fort Plain Standard*, Democratic in politics, was started in February, 1876, by W. A. and Fred Haessel. The present publisher is George O'Connor, jr.

The Tocsin was a paper of short life, and was published by H. Link.

The *Lutheran Herald*, a semi-monthly, was published in 1839, by W. L. Fish, being edited by Rev. J. D. Lawyer.

Banks.—The Fort Plain Bank, organized December 25, 1838, with a capital of \$100,000, was the first institution of its kind in the village. The first directors were Joshua Webster, J. Reid, Robert Hall, Nicholas Moyer, P. J. Wagner, William A. Haslett, John D. Diefendorff, Daniel Moyer, J. D. Zoller, Jacob Abeel, J. H. Moyer, Adam A. Nestle, H. Adams, J. Cady and Jacob Sanders. In February, 1839, Joshua Webster was elected president, and Peter F. Bellinger, cashier, the former holding his position until his death. J. H. Moyer succeeded him, and in January, 1854, when the capital was increased to \$150,000, William A. Haslett was elected president. Among the cashiers were J. C. Dann, I. C. Babcock and J. S. Shearer, the latter holding that office when, in May, 1864, the institution was reorganized as the National Fort Plain Bank, with a capital of \$200,000. Beginning business in September of that year, Mr. Haslett was president at the time, and J. D. Diefendorff, vice-president. The former died in October, 1874, and was succeeded by E. A. Wood. In 1883 the charter of the bank expired, and the Fort Plain National Bank was then organized, with a

capital of \$200,000, and a surplus of \$200,000. The present officers are, Edwin W. Wood, president; Andrew Dunn, vice-president; Frederick S. Haslett, cashier; Irving Knowlton, assistant cashier.

The Farmers' and Mechanic's Bank of Fort Plain was organized in 1887, and has a capital of \$50,000, and a surplus of \$50,000. The institution is at present remodeling and enlarging the old Lipe house on Canal street, and will soon have the handsomest and most commodious banking quarters in the village. The present officers are: John A. Zoller, president; Lester Getman, vice-president; Stafford Moser, cashier.

Masonic.—Fort Plain Lodge No. 433, F. and A. M., was organized August 20, 1857, and received its charter June 17, 1858, working under dispensation in the mean time. The first officers were Peter Snyder, W. M.; George Yost, S. W.; David Hackney, J. W.; F. Dievendorf, secretary; A. Dievendorf, treasurer; C. L. Sims, deacon; L. Hester, J. D., and J. Smith, tyler. The lodge at present contains 209 master masons. The present officers are: H. Seymour Wemple, W. M.; Joseph Duncan, S. W.; Joseph B. Tiffany, J. W.; John A. Roof, treasurer; Emill Rebell, secretary; Worthington S. Farley, jr., S. D.; John H. Parke, J. D.; Rev. E. A. Perry, chaplain; John M. Yorden, S. M. C.; William A. Tadlock, J. M. C.; Henry Crane, tyler, and David G. Hackney, marshal.

Among Fort Plain manufacturing and industrial interests may be mentioned the following:

The Fort Plain Spring and Axle Company, operated by Wood, Smith & Company, who are the largest manufacturers of both springs and axles in the world, employing upwards of 200 men.

The Fort Plain Hosiery Mills, operated by Dunn, Smith & Company, employing 200 or more men.

The Zoller Lumber Company, manufacturers of sash, doors and blinds, which are shipped largely to all parts of the United States, employing fifty to seventy-five men.

The Fort Plain Furniture Company, of which J. K. Edwards is president, and Adam Hicks, manager, manufacturers of furniture, finding a market in all parts of the United States.

B. H. and E. E. Elwood, manufacturers of silk dress goods, employing 125 or more men.

Duffy Brothers, managers of a new silk warp mill, now in process of erection, which will employ fifty to seventy-five men.

The Orange County Milk Association, manufacturers of condensed milk, which is shipped in cans to all climates.

The tannery of John Winning, on North Canal street, employing fifteen men or more, and a number of other establishments of varied character.

CHAPTER XXI.

THE TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE.

THIS town lies on the south bank of the Mohawk. Its eastern boundary is formed by the town of Root; its southern by Schoharie county, and its western by Minden. The surface consists of the interval of Canajoharie or Bowman's creek, and undulating uplands 200 to 600 feet above the valley of the Mohawk. The above mentioned creek, which flows from the southwestern part of the town almost directly east until it reaches the little hamlet of Waterville, whence it takes a northerly turn and flows in a ziz-zag course to its mouth at the village of Canajoharie, is the principal waterway of the town. The soil is a gravelly loam, derived from the disintegration of the underlying slate, in some places intermixed with clay. It easily yields to cultivation and repays the labor of the agriculturist. Canajoharie, indeed, has been noted since its earliest settlement for its rich and valuable farms.

On the 24th of March, 1772, Tryon county was divided into five districts designated by the following names: Mohawk, Stone Arabia, Canajoharie, Kingsland and German Flats. In that division the boundaries of the third, or Canajoharie district were made to include all the territory south of the Mohawk extending as far as the bounds of the county, and from a line running north and south, crossing the river at Anthony's Nose, and extending west to Little Falls.

On March 7, 1788, the original Canajoharie district was formed into a town bearing the same name. Cherry Valley was formed from it in

1791; Minden in 1798; a part of Root in 1823, and another addition to Minden in 1849. This reduced the town to its present area, 23,892 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

The principle grants of land in this town were the Canajoharie tract of 12,450 acres, granted to Lewis Morris and five others, June 20, 1723; the Bradt patent of 3,200 acres, granted to Arent Bradt and Philip Livingston, February 13, 1733; Bagley's patent, of 4,000 acres, granted to Timothy Bagley and C. Williams, June 17, 1737; also a number of others, among which were two Colden patents, and the Cosby, Dick, Lyne and Morris patents, of 2,000 acres each.

Long before any white settler had camped on the shores of the Mohawk, the aboriginal name, Canajoharie, was applied by the Indians to the country lying south of that historic river, and also to the smaller stream that empties into the Mohawk at the present village of Canajoharie. The English interpretation of the word is "the pot that washes itself," and its significance is due to a strange work of nature to be seen in the bed of the creek about three quarters of a mile from its mouth, where falling water and pebbles, in ages gone by, have rounded out a hole in the solid slate rock twenty feet in diameter. The exact depth of the hole is unknown, but it generally contains ten feet of water, below which small stones and other debris are found. Nearly a quarter of a mile above this phenomenal well is a beautiful cascade. The conclusion arrived at by those who have studied this matter is that at one time this cascade was directly over the hole, and that the action of water during the centuries that have since elapsed has worn the face of the falls back to their present distance. Thus through this interesting natural curiosity we obtain the Indian word "Canajoharie," which has been appropriately given to the creek as well as the falls, and also, to the town and attractive village.

The names of the first settlers have not been preserved, which unfortunately gives too much room for conjecture. It is very probable that many came from Schoharie and located in this part of the town contemporarily with the pioneers of Minden. A portion of the rich lands was under cultivation by the Indians at the time the whites first came up the river, especially the islands a mile and a half above and below the mouth of the creek, on which corn, beans, squashes and tobacco

were growing. The early traders who came into the valley to exchange merchandise for furs, found large numbers of apple trees on the hillsides above and below Canajoharie creek, but the trees appeared to have been set out irregularly and without that order found in modern orchards.

Among the fortified dwellings that were utilized as places of defence during the revolution and designated as forts, was the old Van Alstyne house, which stands on the east side of the creek and was once defended by a palisade. It was known as "Fort Rensselaer," but there is nothing to indicate that General Van Rensselaer ever stopped there. The old house later on came into the possession of John H. Moyer, and is mentioned at length by the historian Simms.

Fort Ehle, a mile or more south of Canajoharie, was the palisaded dwelling of John Ehle. Within a short distance of this military post a detachment of the enemy under Brant, in 1780 or '81, surprised and killed Adam Eights, and captured Nathan Foster and Conrad Fritcher, the last mentioned two being taken to Canada. A mile west of Fort Rensselaer was the stone dwelling of Henry N. Failing, erected by his father, Nicholas. It was strongly built and the windows and doors were fortified with bullet proof oak plank, and along its southerly side facing the hill, a staging was erected to which access was gained from second story windows. This staging, with an oak floor, was enclosed with plank to the height of a man's breast, thus affording protection to those who were stationed behind it. It was called Fort Failing, and never being invaded or molested by the enemy it remained intact until 1833, when it accidentally caught fire and was totally burned. The house was occupied after the war by Rev. John Daniel Gros, a pioneer clergyman, who subsequently exchanged it to Colonel Henry Frey for property in Freysbush, where the former built a commodious brick mansion, in which he lived for a number of years and died there in 1812. Colonel Frey moved into the Failing place, adjacent to which he owned a farm of 200 acres, his entire possessions south and west of the site of Canajoharie village being 3,200 acres. Freysbush, which until 1849 belonged to the town of Canajoharie, was named after him. His tory sympathies have been alluded to in connection with the history of Palatine, in which town the first of the family located. Colonel Frey died in the old Failing house at an advanced age.

An early settler of Canajoharie was Johannes Roof, who located on the site of the village in 1777 or '78. Prior to that time, however, he lived at Fort Stanwix (now Rome), his residence at the latter place having begun in 1760, but the increasing danger of invasion led him to come farther east. He purchased a farm in Canajoharie upon which Henry Schremling, one of the pioneers of the town, had erected a stone dwelling. It stood directly back of the old Eldredge or Lovett house and was demolished in 1840.

During the revolution Goshen (or Gose) Van Alstine lived near the village of Canajoharie and at his house, on June 11, 1775, the ninth meeting of the county committee of safety was held. It consisted of twenty-seven delegates; ten from Palatine; seven from Mohawk; five from Canajoharie and five from Kingsland and German Flats. It was at that meeting that Christopher P. Yates and John Marlatt, the former of whom was chairman of the committee, were chosen as delegates to represent Tryon county in the provincial congress. The fourteenth meeting of the committee was also held at Van Alstine's house and a very important meeting it proved. Nicholas Herkimer, afterwards general, was chairman, and Mr. Eisenlord, clerk. The dangerous condition of the exposed inhabitants at Fort Stanwix and other settlements in the valley was discussed, and resolutions adopted that the state of affairs should be communicated to Schenectady, with the suggestion that 100 men be sent from that city to their aid. Thus were the ominous clouds of battle rising over the beautiful valley which is now so peaceful and prosperous. It is not, however, our intention to here review the struggles of the revolution, a special chapter having been devoted to that subject in the early part of the work.

Gose Van Alstine is distinguished as having erected the first grist-mill on Canajoharie creek. It was a wooden building and stood on the east bank a short distance below the falls, and was probably built about 1760. It subsequently came into the possession of Van Alstine's sons, Captain Martin G., and Philip. The old mill was burned about the year 1814 or '15.

In 1817 George Goertner and Henry Lieber, his son-in-law, having purchased the old water privilege and mill site, erected a stone mill fifteen or twenty rods below the site of the Van Alstine mill, and at the

same time built a substantial stone dam across the creek. Adjacent to this they subsequently erected a saw-mill, a distillery, a fulling-mill and a carding machine, and for a number of years a large business was transacted, as they had the patronage of Palatine, Root and Charleston. Upon the death of Mr. Lieber, about 1838, he having previously bought his partner's interest, the mills became the property of Uriah Wood, during whose possession they were destroyed by fire and were never rebuilt.

The second grist-mill on the Canajoharie was built about 1770 by Colonel Henry Frey, who also constructed an adjacent stone dwelling. It was about a mile from the mouth of the stream and probably forty rods from the Van Alstine mill, the miller in charge being an Irishman. This mill, together with 750 acres of excellent land, came into the possession of Henry Frey Cox, by deed of gift from his grandfather, dated May 4, 1812. Upon this land was a heavy growth of timber, which John A. Ehle, who built a store-house, saw-mill and dry dock below Canajoharie village upon the completion of the canal, cut, sawed up, and shipped to tide water, on boats of his own construction. Ehle employed a large number of men for several years. The old stone house belonging to the grist-mill property was occupied for a time by Dr. Sherman, while John Lieber conducted the grist-mill and adjoining distillery. After passing through the hands of several owners the property was purchased in 1828 by Harvey St. John, who, with his partner, Nicholas C. Van Alstine, bought the majority of wheat raised in the surrounding towns and milled flour for the New York market. The firm went into liquidation, however, and after a number of adventurers had speculated with the mills, in vain attempts to establish paying business, the property was burned to the ground January 8, 1849. Eight days later the miller's house was also destroyed in a similar manner.

The names of the earliest merchants in Canajoharie, like those of its earliest settlers, are unknown. William Beekman is believed to have been the first merchant in town after the close of the war. He was born on the ocean when his father's family was emigrating from Holland to the vicinity of Albany. He established himself in business near the Martin Van Alstine ferry, about one mile east of Canajoharie village,

and for a time was associated with George Best. He began trade there about 1788, and married Joanna, the daughter of Nicholas Lowe, of Warren, then called "Little Lakes." Upon the organization of Schoharie county in 1795, Mr. Beekman went to Sharon, where he continued the mercantile business. He received the appointment of first judge of the Court of Common Pleas, creditably fulfilling its duties during a period of forty years. Judge Beekman died November 26th, 1845, aged seventy-eight years.

About 1790 the Kane brothers, John, Elisha, Charles, Elias, Oliver, James and Archibald, came to Canajoharie and established themselves in trade, opening their first store in the old Van Alstine stone dwelling which was then probably forty years old. John, James and Archibald were the only ones known in the business, and they soon erected a stone dwelling with an arched roof a short distance from Van Alstine's ferry. There they continued in business until 1805 or 1806, annually increasing their trade, which grew to large proportions and included the shipping of their goods to and from Schenectady by boats. To facilitate this commerce the Kanes cut a canal across the flats from their place to the river. In connection with this remarkable family of brothers we are obliged to recall a duel in which one of them bore a part.

Soon after the departure of William Beckman, Barent Roseboom & Brothers (John and Abram) occupied a store on the east side of the creek in Canajoharie, the location being a short distance from the stone dwelling erected by the late Thomas B. Mitchell. Later on Philip Van Alstine became the sole partner of Barent Roseboom and the business was transferred to the old Beekman place near the ferry. They were thus brought into close competition with the Kane Brothers, but were often seen at the latter's dwelling. At that time card playing and whisky drinking were favorite amusements among the inhabitants, and in one of these games where the stakes ran high, Henry F. Cox became indebted to Archibald Kane for \$100, and the latter became indebted to Roseboom for the same amount. Kane proposed to Roseboom that he should look to Cox for his pay, which he promptly refused to do. A challenge grew out of the quarrel that followed, and resulted in a duel with pistols, which took place on the morning of April 18, 1801. Upon the signal being given to fire, Rose-

boom did so, and at that instant Kane's arm dropped helpless to his side, having received a bad flesh wound. As he had previously lost his left hand, the shot practically disabled him and the combatants were separated and reconciled. The affair created a sensation on both sides of the river and was for a long time the absorbing topic of conversation.

The Kane brothers subsequently became widely separated, John going to New York; Elias to Albany, whither he was followed by James, Elisha to Philadelphia, Oliver to Rhode Island, Charles to Glens Falls, and Archibald to Hayti. James, the book-keeper of the firm, who was highly respected in Albany, died there about 1847, an octogenarian.

Before taking up the manifold interests and industries of Canajoharie village as a separate part of this chapter, it seems appropriate to here mention the several minor villages and settlements in the town, which contribute in no small measure to its importance.

Buel, a small village situated in the southern part of the town, was first settled by John Bowman, who went thither about 1760 and purchased a large tract of land about the head waters of the stream which for nearly forty years was known as "Bowman's Creek." In fact the settlement now called "Buel," and a great share of the southern portion of the town was known as "Bowman's Creek." Among the other early settlers there were Benjamin Button, a blacksmith; Peter Walrath, Benoni Bullock (a close communion Baptist preacher), Michael Hickey, Frederick Weller, Adolph Walrath, Richard Horning, Cornelius Flint, James Smith, Noah Dodge (justice of the peace), James Adsit, Daniel McDonald, Asa Kimball, Adam Brown, Peter Brown (a merchant), Dr. Conklin, William Bartlett and John Seeber, the latter one of the first inn keepers. The post-office at Buel was established about 1830, but the name of the first postmaster is not remembered. The present incumbent is Charles R. Lane. In 1823 the Central Asylum for the instruction of the deaf and dumb was established near Buel, its course of instruction being modeled after that at Hartford, Conn.; but in 1836 it was united with a similar institution previously established in New York. Prof. O. W. Morris was its last principal. The settlement was named in honor of Jesse Buel, of Albany, at one time prominent in state agricultural circles.

Ames, a small village located in the same valley, two miles or more east of Buel, was named in honor of Fisher Ames. The claim is made that a man named Taylor settled within half a mile of the present village at a very early day, and that he was the first settler within the limits of the present town of Canajoharie. It is asserted that he cleared thirty-five acres of land, planted apple trees and built a small dwelling house of logs, but was compelled to relinquish his holdings when other settlers began to come in for want of a title to the land. He will be more readily remembered by some of the older residents from the fact of his having a partially demented son, named Harry Taylor, who wandered about the community bareheaded, carrying a bundle attached to which were two or three hats.

In 1794 a Free Will Baptist church was organized at a point several miles west of Ames, and in 1796 this society was moved to the latter place, where some of its members resided, including the pastor, Elder George Elliott. The original members of this early religious organization were Rufus Morris, William Hubbs, Jesse Benjamin, Philip Bonsteci, Ray Gules, Nathan Richmond, Peter Frederick, Samuel Baley, Stephen Smith, Ephraim Elmer, Jonathan Elliott, Rufus Elliott, Jonah Phelps, Henry Rowland, Thomas Tallman, Benjamin Treadway, Jonathan Parks, and a large number of others, including fifty-four females. The first church was erected about a mile east of the village, being replaced in 1832 by another which was located at Ames. The society was then reorganized as the "Ames Free Baptist church," with Jeremiah R. Slark, John Bennett, Luther Taylor, Simon D. Kittle, Willard R. Wheeler and Lawrence Beach as trustees. Among the ministers of this church who succeeded Mr. Elliott will be remembered Thomas Tallman, David R. McElfresh, O. F. Moulton, Phips W. Lake, G. P. Ramsey, William H. Waldrose, J. M. Crandall, A. S. Mathews and a number of others, including the present pastor.

Russel & Mills began business at Ames about the year 1800 and were the first merchants in the place. Among other early settlers there the names of a few of the more prominent ones will be recognized. Thus we recall Dr. Simeon Marcy and his brother-in-law, Joseph Jessup; Rufus and Charles Morris, Judge Phineas Randall, father of Alexander Randall, at one time governor of Wisconsin; Ira Beach, an inn-keeper;

Frederick Mills, William and Squire Hills, brothers; Abial Bingham, Seth Wetmore, who was elected sheriff in 1821, the first to fill that office in Montgomery county after the revision of the constitution; Abram, Isaac and Jacob Hodge, three brothers; Gen. John Keyes, father of Zach. Keyes, for many years an inn-keeper at Sharon; Ebenezer Hibbard; John Russel, George Mills, who operated a large tannery; Charles Powell, Reuben Hodge and a number of others including a family of whites. The early settlers in and around Ames differed from the pioneers locating on the river, in as much as they came mostly from New England, while the latter were of German extraction. Among the first industries of this part of the town were a grist-mill, a saw-mill and a wheelright's shop, all of which were set in operation about 1797. Still later a pottery and nail factory were built and conducted for a few years. The present postmaster at Ames is Milton Countryman. Among his predecessors in office the names of Edward Clark, De Witt Wells, William H. Hodge, Loring H. Tiffany and W. R. Wheeler may be mentioned.

Mapletown is a small village in the southeastern part of the town, distant from Canajoharie village about four miles. The name of this place was suggested from the large number of sugar maples which were found there and allowed to remain by the early settlers. Jacob Ehle, and Jacob Knox, his brother-in-law, located at this place as early as 1791, the former building his house on the old Indian trail from Canajoharie to New Dorlach. They paid \$2.62½ per acre for their land. Mr. Knox was supervisor of his town for a number of years, and also a justice of the peace, being well liked generally and averse to receiving remuneration for his public duties. His eldest son, the late General John Jay Knox, of Augusta, Oneida county, was prominently known throughout the state. Other early settlers at Mapletown were John St. John, Philander Barnes, Wessel Cornue, John Sweatman (a tanner and shoemaker), John Perrigs and Elisha Payton. Very early in the present century a reformed church was built there, Dominic Toll being among its first pastors.

Marshville, situated on Canajoharie creek, near the center of the town, is a hamlet. One of the Seeber family built a large saw mill at this place at an early date, the property subsequently coming into the pos-

session of Stephen and Henry Garlock, who operated the mill for a number of years. Among the early residents of the place was Joe Carley, an expert blacksmith, who gained some little celebrity after the war of 1812, by issuing shimplasters under the name of the "Muttonville Bank," signed by "Joe Carley, president," and "payable in good merchantable mutton." The present postmaster at Marshville is C. Van Alstine.

Sprout Brook, is a small hamlet and post-office in the southwestern part of the town. The history of its settlement is contemporary with that of Buel and the Bowman's creek district. The present postmaster is H. A. Van Dusen.

Population.—The population of Canajoharie (town and village) during the following named years will be of interest. In 1825 the town contained 3,664 inhabitants; 1830, 4,348; 1835, 4,671; 1840, 5,146; 1845, 4,988; 1850, 4,097; 1855, 4,022; 1860, 4,134; 1865, 4,248; 1870, 4,256; 1875, 4,241; 1880, 4,294; 1890, 4,267.

Schools.—The first school within the limits of the present town stood on Seeber's lane, on the north line of the Goertner farm, one mile and a half southwest of Canajoharie village. When the common school system was adopted this old house was known as district "No. 1 in and for the town of Canajoharie." The town is now divided into fourteen school districts, in which there is a population of 1,149 children of school age. Of these 831 are attending school, the daily average being 517. Twenty-three teachers are employed, their aggregate salaries for 1891 amounting to \$8,418.27. The school libraries contain 1,879 volumes, the total value of which is \$1,138. The sites and school-houses are valued at \$18,310. The total equalized valuation of real and personal estate in the town for the year 1891 was \$2,203,139.

Civil Organization.—The town records were destroyed by fire in 1849, which makes it impossible to give a correct list of the officers during the preceding half century. The supervisors of the town from 1850 to the present time have been as follows:

Abraham Van Alstine, 1850-52; Barney J. Martin, 1853; Nicholas Slingerland, 1854-55; Chester S. Brumley, 1856; George Goertner, 1857; William J. Van Dusen, 1858-59; Edmund Buel, 1860; Andrew Gilchrist, 1861; Edmund Buel, 1862-63; Lewis Clark, 1864;



H. S. Hayden

William J. Van Dusen, 1865-68; James Halligan, 1869-70; Horatio Nellis, 1871; Charles G. Barnes, 1872; James Halligan, 1873; John Finehout, 1874-77; Charles T. Stafford, 1878-79; Charles G. Barnes, 1880; Stafford Mosher, 1881-82; William Wiles, 1883-87; Vorhees Bush, 1888-90; James W. Dygert, 1891-92.

The town clerks during a corresponding period have been:

Constant Brown, 1850; Cornelius A. Smith, 1851-52; Silas V. Wemple, 1853; James P. Easton, 1854; Daniel Morrell, 1855; Horace Barnes, 1856; Lewis Clark, 1857-58; Silas V. Wemple, 1859; Lewis Clark, 1860; George A. Doubleday, 1861; Robert H. Shaver, 1862-63; Charles W. Mosher, 1864; James Halligan, 1865; John Finehout, 1866-67; Charles G. Shrader, 1868; Joseph Roser, 1869-71; John L. Reed, 1872; Christopher Sticht, 1873; George F. Hiller, 1874-75; Orlando Steingraves, 1876-77; Thomas Lynch, 1878-79; Lewis S. Davis, 1880; James W. Dygert, 1881-82; George L. Winne, 1883-84; Voorhees Bush, 1885-86; James W. Dygert, 1887-88; J. C. Melick, 1889-90; Henry Klinkhart, 1891-92.

The principal town officers for the present year are: Supervisor, James W. Dygert; town clerk, Henry Klinkhart; justices of the peace, Charles W. Wheeler, David Spraker, A. B. Dewey, Charles H. Hibbard; collector, Menzo H. Wessell; overseer of the poor, Augustus Stumpf-fel; assessors, Henry T. Sammons, Augustus Jones, Howard Vosburgh.

CANAJOHARIE VILLAGE.

Unfortunately the task of collecting data and material for a detailed history of the village from its earliest settlement, down to the middle of the present century, was neglected until much of the necessary information had forever passed away, together with the lives of the participants in those primitive scenes.

The old stone Van Alstine house, occupied for many years by Philip Van Alstine, and which was probably erected about the middle of the last century, was undoubtedly the first substantial dwelling built on the site of the village, although fifty years prior to that time a settlement had been made near Palatine Bridge on the opposite side of the river. The available mill sites between the falls and the mouth of the creek

attracted the attention of Goshen Van Alstine and Colonel Henry Frey at an early date, and both erected grist and saw-mills, a history of which will be found in the previous pages of this work. These mills naturally attracted settlers to the locality, and the families employed in clearing off the timbered lands in the vicinity, as naturally located in or near the village.

As early as 1778 John Roof came from Fort Stanwix, where his father had previously settled, and opened an inn at Canajoharie. Whether a public house had been conducted there prior to that time is not definitely known. Roof's father, Johannes, purchased the old stone Schremling house that stood against the hill upon the southern end of the flats, and there they kept tavern for many years. The stages generally stopped there over night as did also the passengers. It was in this early tavern that a mysterious burglary was committed in 1797, the perpetrators of which were never discovered. It appears that an iron chest in which a large sum of money had been deposited, was chained to the bedstead occupied by the elder Roof and his wife. Rebecca Bowman, a member of the family, and Nancy Spraker, a young girl, also occupied the room on the night of the burglary, and although the chest was of extraordinary weight, and was placed under the bed, the thieves succeeded in carrying it away without awakening any one. A small tin trunk in which valuable papers had been placed, and which had also been among the contents of the iron chest, was found soon after the robbery in one of the abutments of the bridge which crossed the creek.

Among the notable guests at the Roof tavern in 1779 was General James Clinton, who was stationed there with a body of Sullivan's troops, some of the officers of which were no doubt entertained by Roof and Philip Van Alstine. During their stay they opened a road from Canajoharie through the town of Springfield to the head of Otsego Lake, upon which they launched their fleet of bateaux. General Washington is also said to have stopped at Roof's house when in this locality. A more modern hotel was afterward erected in front of the old Roof tavern, and was known for a time as the "stage house." It was kept in 1826 by Reuben Peake and a few years later by Elisha Kane Roof. George B. Murray took possession of it in 1833, being succeeded by

Morgan L. Harris, who conducted the house for ten years or more. Upon the site of these old taverns, Webster Wagner, who achieved fame and wealth as the inventor of the sleeping and palace car, erected the beautiful Hotel Wagner in 1888.

Reference has already been made to the mercantile transactions of Barent Roseboom & Brothers, who established a store in the village at an early day. The next prominent tradesman was Henry Nazro, who opened a store about 1805, but removed to Troy within a few years thereafter. He was succeeded by Abram Wemple, a business man of extraordinary ability and of fine personal appearance. His father was at first associated with him, their place of business being "the old yellow building" previously occupied by the Rosebooms. Wemple subsequently built a store on the opposite side of the creek and moved his stock into it, whereupon Joseph Failing opened a store in the building he had vacated, and also conducted a tavern there. His brother Warner was afterward interested with him in trade, but soon sold out to John Usher. The firm of Failing & Usher suffered a heavy loss in 1817, when their store caught fire and burned to the ground. The senior partner was at that time indebted to Warner Failing and exhibited great integrity by assigning to him all his property, including a silver watch.

Abram Wemple, above mentioned; commanded a company of cavalry, and was known as a handsome and gallant officer. His death occurred about 1815, after which his store was occupied by several business men, including Richard Bortle, more commonly known as "Dick Bortle," who kept a saloon there in 1826. This eccentric character of early days will be remembered by some of the older residents.

Among other early merchants mention should be made of James B. Alton, who came to Canajoharie from Ames soon after the death of Wemple and continued in business there until 1825, at which time he failed. Herman I. Ehle opened a store there in 1821, erecting a building for the purpose three years later on the bank of the canal. Henry Lieber also carried on a large business in Canajoharie in 1822 and 1823 in connection with his mills previously mentioned. Among the canal boats which he built to transport his products, was one named "*Prince Orange*," launched in 1826. It was the first of the class called lake boats, and was built near the site of Lieber's brewery. A furnace for

plow and other castings was removed to Canajoharie from Palatine Bridge about this time, the proprietors being Gibson, Johnson & Ehle. The well remembered historian, Simms, who lived so long at Fort Plain, was employed for a year or two as clerk for Mr. Ehle, afterwards becoming his partner in the dry goods business. Another one of Ehle's early partners was John Taylor, who moved to the village in 1827.

The chief athletic sport during the latter part of the first quarter of the century in the Mohawk valley was foot racing. As the canal neared completion these were of frequent occurrence at Canajoharie, but probably the most prominent one was the contest which took place between Joseph White, of Cherry Valley, and David Spraker, of Palatine. This race came off in August, 1824, and was contested for a stake of \$1,000. The distance, ten rods, was marked off on Montgomery street by David F. Sacia, who was one of the judges and started the runners. Spraker won the race by three feet, and thus carried off the prize. This race was a general topic of conversation for half a century afterward, and is still remembered by old residents.

The name of David F. Sacia, who was one of the early lawyers of the village, and also one of its first postmasters, brings to mind the names of several others who have held the same office. Among the number were David Spraker, Abram N. Van Alstine, and John C. Smith. Roger Dougherty, and Alfred Conkling (father of Roscoe Conkling) were the first to represent the legal profession in the village, being followed a little later by Nicholas Van Alstine. Later still were David Eacker (afterward first judge of the County Court of Common Pleas), and Charles McVean, one of the first congressmen from Montgomery county, and afterwards surrogate of New York county,

Dr. Jonathan Eights was probably the first regular physician in the village, but removed to Albany prior to 1820. The medical fraternity was then represented by John Atwater and Lebbeus Doty. Dr. Walter L. Bean located in Canajoharie as early as 1825.

Canajoharie Water Supply.—A water supply was first introduced into the village in 1852 by the Canajoharie Water Works Co., the plans for the works being made by William A. Perkins, engineer. The supply was taken from springs by gravity, to which was added later on, rams for fire emergency. In 1876 this system was extended by Chas.

W. Knight, taking the supply from larger springs. The company was managed by six directors, as follows: David Spraker, president; Lorenzo B. Clark, secretary and treasurer; Thos. B. Mitchell, Horace Barnes, Joseph White, and Chester S. Brumley. The superintendent was John D. Buddle. In 1881 the Cold Spring Water Company, a competing corporation, put in new works, after plans by Stephen E. Babcock, engineer. This company was managed by five trustees, among whom were James Arkell, Benjamin Smith, Adam Smith and Louis Bierbauer.

In 1888 the property and franchise of the first company were sold by foreclosure to Randolph Spraker and William Hatter, who with others, in December, 1889, organized the Canajoharie Consolidated Water Company, receiving the franchises and property of both the other companies. The catch basin is located three-fourths of a mile from the village; the pond one-half mile and the reservoir one-quarter mile. The officers of the company are James Arkell, president; William Hatter, vice-president; Randolph Spraker, treasurer, secretary, superintendent and collector.

The village was incorporated April 30th, 1829, since which time its growth has been very gradual, but including among its permanent residents, men of substantial wealth and also intellectual, social and political prominence. The present population is fairly estimated at 2,200. The village has suffered severe loss by fire upon three occasions, 1840, 1849, and 1877, the flames destroying in each instance a large number of the business blocks. Thus we find the handsome Mohawk Hotel on the sight of the old Kirby House, the latter destroyed by the fire of 1877. The magnificent Hotel Wagner was built by the late Webster Wagner in 1878, and is an ornament to the village and an evidence of the public spirit of its builder.

The old stone school, known as District No. 8, which was built in 1850 by P. Wetmore, under the direction of trustees C. G. Barnes, C. H. Brown, and J. J. H. Snell, has served its purpose well for two score years and more. Before the end of another year, however, an elegant stone school, now in process of erection at the corner of Cliff and Otsego streets, will be finished and occupied. It is being built by contractor Kirby, and being large and commodious, is a fine example of modern school architecture.

The incomplete file of records makes it impossible to give a correct list of past village officers. The present incumbents are, F. E. Simons, president; Charles H. Shaper, Adam Roser, Charles E. Schultze, and Albert F. Hatter, trustees.

The first church in Canajoharie was erected in 1818 by the combined efforts of a number of religious people of different denominations, the first regular preacher being Rev. George B. Miller of the Lutheran denomination. In 1825 the Erie canal was constructed so near this church as to leave barely room for the tow path, and when through canal boats began running the following summer blasts of their bugles greatly interfered with the services in the little church, and the annoyance was only abated by an appeal to the legislature. Rev. Mr. Miller afterwards became principal of Hartwick Seminary, a position he retained for many years.

The Reformed Church was organized on the 13th of January, 1827, by Rev. Douw Van O'Linda, Gerrit A. Lansing, Jacob Hees, John Cooper, John M. Wemple, Jacob Gray, and Henry Loucks, who met at the house of Mr. Lansing "for the purpose of taking into consideration the subject of organizing a Protestant Dutch church in this place." Meetings were held in the union church and the society remained under the pastoral care of Rev. Van O'Linda for a year or two, receiving Rev. Ransford Wells as a settled minister in 1830. The latter was succeeded by Rev. Richard D. Van Kleeck, who resigned in the fall of 1835.

Among those who have filled this pastorate since that time may be mentioned Samuel Robertson, E. P. Dunning, a congregational clergyman from New Haven; James McFarlane, John De Witt, Nathan F. Chapman, E. S. Hammond, Alonzo Welton, Benjamin F. Romaine, B. Van Zandt and others. The present pastor is Rev. Mark A. Deuman. Before this society had built a church in Canajoharie, its Sunday-school was consolidated with that of the Methodists across the river, and thus it continued until 1842, when the stone church now occupied by the Methodist Episcopal society was erected, its dedication taking place in March of that year. The present stone edifice of the Reformed society is of more recent date, and constitutes one of the architectural beauties of the village.

St. Mark's English Lutheran Church was organized in 1839 by Rev. William N. Scholl. During the same year, or the one following, they

purchased the Union church building near the canal, Rev. Mr. Lintner, of Schoharie, delivering the dedicatory sermon in February, 1841. The present vine-covered stone church was erected at a cost of \$15,000, including the chapel, and dedicated August 10, 1870, the sermon on this occasion being again preached by Rev. Lintner. The names of Mr. Scholl, F. W. Brauns, Reuben Dederick, Rev. Hersh, Rev. Luckenback, and L. D. Wells will be remembered by some of the older members as having faithfully filled the pastorate of this church. The present pastor is Rev. William M. Baum, jr.

St. John's German Evangelical Lutheran Church perfected its organization in 1835, with Rev. John Eisenlord as pastor, and including as members C. Scharff, C. Sauerland, Henry Otto, F. Jones, Henry Lieber and F. Miller. The society held meetings for some time in the Academy building, finally erecting a house of worship in 1848. The present stone church was built in 1871, its consecration taking place in March, 1872. The present pastor is Rev. J. A. W. Kirsch.

Church of the Good Shepherd, Protestant Episcopal.—The first society of this denomination in Canajoharie was organized under the direction of Rev. I. Leander Townsend, rector at Cherry Valley, early in 1852. John E. Young and Amos A. Bradley were the first wardens, George Yost, David W. Erwin, Sumner S. Ely, Samuel G. Wilkins, Abraham Seeber, John I. Brandon, Chester S. Brumley and Joseph White, the first vestrymen. The request for an Episcopal organization at Canajoharie was signed by the above named persons, together with William McMiller, Andrew Gilchrist, Daniel S. Read, Morgan L. Harris, Delevan Corey, Truman M. Richards, Peter D. Betticher, John I. Roof, Daniel G. Lobdell, George Smith, Ralph R. Lathrop and Charles Miller. The parish first received the name of St. Polycarp, which was later changed to "The Good Shepherd." The present handsome stone edifice was erected in 1873 at an expense of about \$9,000, which was wholly contributed by Mrs. Marietta White. The church was consecrated and taken under the spiritual jurisdiction of the diocese of Albany in 1881. There are at present about forty communicants. Among those who have officiated at this church the names of Revs. Joseph W. McIlwain, Mr. Dowdney, Mr. Howard, Mr. Widdemer, Mr. Poole, Mr. Lusk, Mr. Schuyler, Mr. Marvin and Mr. Van Dyne may be mentioned. The

present rector is Rev. Clarence E. Ball, who succeeded Rev. Marvin, now rector of St. John's church at Johnstown. Mr. Ball also officiates at Fort Plain.

The Methodist Episcopal Church.—This society was first organized on the opposite side of the river in Palatine, where they erected a meeting-house as early as 1828. The stone church now occupied by them in Canajoharie was built in 1841, and its dedication took place in March, 1842. In 1863 it was rebuilt and enlarged, rededication services being held February 18, 1864. The society has always been remarkably successful in its undertakings, and has a membership of 270 at the present time. The church has an active Sunday-school, with thirty-five teachers and officers, and 230 scholars. The present pastor is Rev. T. A. Griffin, who succeeded Rev. J. L. Atwell in April, 1892. B. Frank Diefendorf is superintendent of Sunday-school.

St. Peter and Paul's Roman Catholic church was built in 1862, Rev. Daly, of Utica, officiating at the dedication, which took place in April, 1863. The edifice cost \$5,000. The pastors have included Revs. Clark, Brennan, Harrigan and Zucker. The present pastor is Rev. J. Bloomer, who also officiates at Fort Plain.

Masonic.—Hamilton Lodge, No. 79, F. and A. M., received its charter in 1806, being at that time No. 10 in the list of state lodges. The first master was Dr. Joshua Webster. The present officers are: Jeremiah Vosburgh, W. M.; John S. Hatter, S. W.; Frank E. Simons, J. W.; Voorhees Bush, treasurer; C. Sticht, secretary; John W. Nellis, S. D.; Zach C. Neahr, J. D.; Frank Rice, S. M. C.; Henry A. Shaper, J. M. C.; Hiram L. Huston, Lewis S. Davis and David J. Craig, trustees.

Hiram Union Chapter, No. 53, R. A. M., is also located at Canajoharie. The present officers of the Chapter are Albert M. Klock, M. E. H. P.; John A. Roof, E. K.; Alvin Kneeskern, E. S.; Voorhees Bush, treasurer; C. Sticht, secretary; K. A. Ellithorp, C. H.; F. E. Simons, P. S.; J. S. Hatter, R. A. C.; Lewis S. Davis, M. 3d V.; David I. Craig, M. 2d V.; David E. Dunn, M. 1st V. K. A. Ellithorp, Peter Sloan, and Charles Wheeler, trustees.

Journalistic History.—The first newspaper published in the village was the *Telegraph*, which appeared in 1825 and '26, edited and published by Henry Hooghkirk. In 1827 Samuel Caldwell issued the *Canajo-*

harie Sentinel. In the same year and 1828 appeared the *Canajoharie Republican*, issued at first by Henry Bloomer, and later by John McVean and D. F. Sacia. The *Montgomery Argus*, started by Henry Bloomer in 1831, was continued by him for about two years, and then by S. M. S. Grant until 1836, when it was discontinued. The *Canajoharie Investigator* was published by Andrew H. Calhoun from 1833 until 1836. W. H. Riggs first published the *Mohawk Valley Gazette*, in 1847, continuing the paper for two years, and W. S. Hawley published the *Montgomery Union* from 1850 to 1853.

The *Radii* was begun in 1837 by Levi S. Backus (a deaf mute); in 1840 the office was burned and the paper removed to Fort Plain. In 1854 it was removed to Madison county, but later returned to Fort Plain. For several years an appropriation of \$200 per year was made by the state for sending the paper to deaf mutes. About 1858 it was removed to Canajoharie and published as the *Canajoharie Radii*. James Arkell purchased the paper in 1863, on the 30th of April of which year it was enlarged and assumed the name of the *Canajoharie Radii and Taxpayer's Journal*. L. F. Allen secured an interest in the paper at that time and the firm of Arkell & Allen continued to publish it until January 1, 1866, when Angell Matthewson purchased Arkell's interest. On the 1st of May, 1868, Mr. Allen bought Matthewson's interest and this was sold to Alvin J. Plank in November of the same year. The firm of L. F. Allen & Co. continued until August 1, 1887, when the Plank interest was sold to John F. Hazelton. The Radii Publishing Co. was thus formed and conducted the publication until August 1, 1889, since which time L. F. Allen has been sole proprietor. The *Radii* is an independent weekly journal.

The *Canajoharie Courier*, independent in politics, is published weekly. It was started by Willet F. Cook and Charles Bowen on the 9th of August, 1879. Bowen's share in the paper was purchased by Cook in January, 1880, and the latter then conducted it alone until March 11, 1889, when he became associated with William B. Forman. The paper is now published by Cook & Forman.

The *Hay Trade Journal*, published weekly, was established in July, 1892. It is edited by Willis Bullock.

Banks.—The National Spraker Bank.—This institution, which was established as the Spraker Bank in 1853, is the oldest one of its kind in

the village. It was reorganized and incorporated under the national banking act of 1865. James Spraker was the first president, and held the office until his death. Frasier Spraker, who is now president, was elected August 16, 1880. B. Fred Spraker is vice-president and William Wiles, cashier. The capital is \$100,000.

The Canajoharie National Bank was first organized as a State bank in 1855, and as a national bank ten years later. The capital at that time was \$100,000, since which it has been increased to \$125,000. A. N. Van Alstine was the first president, and P. Moyer the first cashier. The present officers are: President, C. G. Barnes; cashier, A. C. Richmond; assistant cashier, N. S. Brumley. The bank has a surplus of about \$40,000.

Among the industrial and manufacturing interests of the village the paper and cotton sack manufactory of Arkell & Smith is the most extensive. This industry was established in 1859 since which time its capacity has been constantly increased. The factory furnishes employment to about 150 employees and the output averages 25,000,000 sacks per annum.

The Mohawk Valley Silk Fabric Company, whose factory is located on Canajoharie Creek, directly opposite Arkell & Smith's, was incorporated in 1890. The company manufacture silk fabric for mitts and gloves and employ about fifty workers. The officers are E. S. Smith, president; A. C. Richmond, treasurer, and H. L. Huston, secretary.

The Pettit Manufacturing Company, incorporated in December, 1889, with the following officers: Charles G. Pettit, president; William N. Smith, vice-president, and Edward A. Walker, secretary and treasurer, manufacture fine confectionery for wholesale trade, and furnish employment to a large number of workers.

The Sweet Refrigerator Company was incorporated in 1889. The officers are James P. Van Evera, president; A. C. Richmond, treasurer; Charles Shaper, James Arkell, B. Frank Diefendorf, L. S. Davis, and William H. Bain, directors. Employment is given to twelve or fifteen workers and the product consists of refrigerators, snow shovels, step ladders, and bar fixtures.

The Imperial Packing Company is engaged in curing and packing the celebrated "beech nut" hams and bacon, their plant constituting one of the important industries of the village.

CHAPTER XXII.

TOWN OF MOHAWK.

THIS town was formed from Johnstown April 4, 1837, and is, therefore, the youngest town in the county. Its territory was originally included in the provisional district of Mohawk, one of the first sub divisions of Tryon county. In 1788 the Mohawk district was divided and the portion of it lying north of the river was formed into a town named Caughnawaga, out of which, in 1793, Mayfield, Broadalbin and Johnstown were set off as separate towns. The reader will thus see that the creation of Mohawk renewed a historic name from old Tryon county.

Mohawk is on the northern boundary, Johnstown being directly north, while Amsterdam is on the east; Glen and a part of Root, on the south (the river intervening), and Palatine forms the western boundary. The Mohawk is the chief water course, having as principal tributaries the Cayadutta and Danoscara (or Dadanaskarie) creeks. In the valley the land is level and very fertile, but in the northern portion of the town the surface is much broken by hills, some of which reach a height of four hundred feet above the river. Mayfield mountain trends across the western border and forms, at the river, that bold projection of rock called "The Nose," which is so picturesque a feature in the landscape.

Mohawk has an area of 19,519 acres and contains in whole or in part several of the important land patents granted during the early part of the eighteenth century, among which may be mentioned the historic Stone Arabia patent, comprising an aggregate of 12,700 acres, a small part of which extended into the western portion of this town. Next east was the Alexander tract of 8,000 acres, lying almost wholly within the town, granted May 6, 1825. The Collins tract of 2,000 acres lay east of Alexander's and was granted to John, Margaret and Edward Collins, under the name of Caughnawaga patent November 4, 1714. Hanson's patent, including 2,000 acres, bounded Collins on the west,

and was granted to Hendrick and Hans Hanson, July 17, 1713. The Kayaderosseras patent extended into the eastern part of Mohawk. It originally included more than 700,000 acres, but was obtained through fraud practiced upon the Indians. Much trouble and litigation grew out of an attempt by the patentees to occupy their claimed lands, and it was only through the influence of Sir William Johnson that the Indians were not cheated out of the whole tract. The patent was granted November 2, 1708. A small portion of Butler's patent is located in the north part of Mohawk. It was granted, December 31, 1735, to Walter Butler and three others, and included a total of 4,000 acres. The Sacandaga patent also extended south and includes a small part of the northern portion of the town. It was granted to Lendert Gansevoort and others, and embraced 28,000 acres.

The town of Mohawk is unusually interesting in its history, for during the revolution, and even the preceding year, its territory witnessed some of the most stirring events of that remarkable period. The town includes the site of one of the principal villages of the Mohawks, which, indeed, was their chief centre for many years. This was especially true of the period we call Sir William's time, and also after his death, when his son, Sir John Johnson, and his nephew Guy Johnson, succeeded him in authority, if not in influence. This village was called Caughnawaga, meaning "Stone in the water," or "at the rapids." When it was founded is not known, but it is supposed to have been many years previous to the advent of the whites, and has been known by various names as "Ganawadas," "Cahanisga," and "Gandaouga," the first two supposed to be Indian and the latter a mixture of Indian and French. To the Dutch settlers it was said to have been known first as "Kaghnawage," and afterward as "Caughnawaga," a name now, however, limited to the eastern and more ancient part of the village of Fonda.

The earliest whites that visited the Indians at Caughnawaga are believed to have been the Jesuits, whose mission, as it was said, was to advance the power of France as well as the Roman church. Isaac Jogues was held as a prisoner by the Mohawks from August, 1642, to the same month of the next year, and then being released he labored as missionary in 1646, but was killed by them in October of that year. Fathers Fremine and De Lamberville afterward dwelt at Caughnawaga

and did missionary work, but their labors, as were those of all other Jesuit priests, were unsatisfactory and discouraging. This subject, however, is so fully treated in one of the early chapters of this work that further reference to it seems unnecessary.

Caughnawaga, although one of the smallest of the Iroquois villages, was always of considerable importance, and was, indeed, a distinguished place among the Indians as well as the Jesuits. Here the first formal council was held in 1659. Ten years later, during one of the numerous Indian wars of the century, it was attacked by an opposing force (said to be the Mohicans), but the invaders were repulsed. In 1693, however, Count de Frontenac invaded the Iroquois country and destroyed many Indian villages, including Caughnawaga, and although the place was afterward rebuilt and gained considerable prominence as an Indian town, its greatest notoriety was acquired later on through its white, rather than its Indian, inhabitants. The first permanent white settlers in what is now Mohawk were the Dutch, who, indeed, were the pioneers of the lower part of the valley. One of the first families to locate here was Douw Fonda, who moved from Schenectady in 1751.

At the beginning of the revolution he lived on the flats, a few rods from the road now leading across the river, and in addition to farming kept an inn. On May 22, 1780, he was killed by the Indians during that raid which rendered Sir John Johnson infamous. The unfortunate old man had greatly befriended the Mohawks in former years, but even this was of no avail at that time of butchery. The details of the tragedy are thus stated by the historian Simms: When the alarm first reached the family, Penelope Grant, a Scotch girl living with him, to whom the old gentleman was much attached, urged him to accompany her to the hill whither the Romeyn family were fleeing; but the old patriot, seizing his gun, exclaimed: "Penelope, do you stay here with me, I will fight for you to the last drop of blood." Finding persuasion of no avail, she left him to his fate, which was indeed a lamentable one; for soon the enemy arrived, and he was led out by a Mohawk Indian, known as One-armed Peter, toward the bank of the river, where he was tomahawked and scalped. As he was led from the house he was observed by John Hanson, a prisoner, to have a book and cane in his hand. His murderer had often partaken of his hospitality, having

lived for many years in his neighborhood. When afterward charged with this horrid crime, he replied that, "as it was the intention of the enemy to kill him, he might as well get the bounty for his scalp as any one else." With the plunder stolen from the Fonda residence were four male slaves and one female, all of whom were taken to Canada. John, Jelles and Adam Fonda were sons of Douw, and were all staunch Whigs. Jelles became one of the most prominent men of the locality, and is said to have been the first merchant west of Schenectady. His trade was with both the Indians and the white settlers in the valley as far distant as Forts Schuyler and Stanwix, and even Oswego, Niagara and Schlosser. His traffic was chiefly in blankets, ammunition and supplies of a general character, and his pay was generally peltries, ginseng and potash. By his industry Jelles Fonda accumulated a large property, and which descended to his heirs. He also served as captain under General Johnson during the last French war, and at the outbreak of the revolution received flattering inducements to join the British army. All these, however, he rejected and became captain of a patriotic company, although at the time he was exempt from military duty, being more than fifty years old. He afterwards was one of the Tryon county judges, and also served in the legislature, the last term of office being terminated by his sudden death in 1791. Many of the descendants of the Fonda family are still living in the village which bears their name.

Douw Fonda, Myndert Wemple and Hendrick Vrooman were the purchasers of the Collins tract, which we have already described. Wemple and Vrooman also became settlers on the land and are therefore included among the pioneers of the place. Peggy Wemple is said to have kept a tavern at Caughnawaga as early as 1775, and became a person of great influence.

Nicholas Hanson settled on Tribes Hill about 1725, and Henry Hanson, as has been mentioned, was the first white child born in the town. Alexander White, who was the first sheriff of Tryon county, was also a pioneer and lived, according to tradition, on the site of the Fonda court-house. White was an aggressive tory at the beginning of the war, his conduct so offending the patriots that they drove him to Canada; and returning the next year, he was promptly arrested by the vigilant committee of safety. He was succeeded as sheriff by John Frey.



George Ingersoll

Herman Visscher was one of the early pioneers and made his settlement on the Hanson track. In the same vicinity also was William H. Brower. Michael Stoller was also a pioneer, and settled on the farm more recently occupied by his grandson. Henry Coleman was not only a pioneer, but also a revolutionary soldier, and fought at the battle at Stone Arabia. John Chaley who settled near Tribes Hill was also a patriot soldier, but found himself arrayed against his own brother, the latter being with the British. Lodowick Putnam is also to be named among the pioneers of the town. It was upon his house that Sir John's raiders made the first assault after leaving Johnstown, and they cruelly murdered both himself and one of his sons. Amasa Stephens lived in the same neighborhood, and he, too, fell a victim of Indian barbarity. Mark Doxtader (descendants of this pioneer spelled the name Dockstader) settled in Mohawk at an early day, on the farm now occupied by Delavan Briggs. Colonel John Butler and his son Walter were early settlers, and both became prominent followers of the Johnsons, being, like Sir John, guilty of many of the outrages perpetrated in the valley.

During the revolution the territory now included in Mohawk was the scene of many historic events, some of which were of a very thrilling character. The inhabitants of the valley were divided in sentiment, a few being allied to the Johnsons, and therefore sustaining British interests, while the majority was true to the American cause. Even before the outbreak of the war there was a conflict of opinion, but no open rupture took place until precipitated by Guy Johnson in his suppression of the patriot convention at Caughnawaga in the spring of 1775. This was the beginning of actual hostilities in this locality, and the people who had formerly been all united, were thenceforth at enmity, the "loyalists" (as the tories called themselves) being arrayed against the patriots, the latter being styled "rebels" by the former. At this time, however, Guy Johnson and a large body of tories and Indians departed for Canada, followed in 1776 by Sir John and his adherents, which left but few of the tory element in the valley. Those, however, who did remain were carefully watched by the Committee of Safety, and it was only on the occasion of a British invasion that they displayed open enmity. The Mohawk committee to which we have referred was composed of John Marlett, John Bliven, Abraham Van-

Horne, Adam Fonda, Frederick Fisher (formerly called Visscher), Sampson Sammons, Wm. Schuyler, Volkert Veeder, James McMaster and Daniel Lane. A number of this committee, it will be noticed, lived within the present limits of the town.

Frederick Fisher (or Visscher) was an influential man in the Caughnawaga region, and was early commissioned colonel of the patriot militia. He, too, was made to feel the wrath of the Johnsons on the occasion of a parade and review of the troops. Sir John first attacked Fisher with his cane, but meeting with unexpected resistance, resorted to his sword and threatened to strike. Failing to intimidate the colonel by this means, he next procured his pistols and demanded the dismissal of the regiment, threatening to shoot him if not obeyed. Even these unusual demonstrations failed to frighten the assembled patriots, whereupon Sir John much chagrined returned to his carriage and rode away.

Prominent among the true men of the day was Sampson Sammons, born in 1742 in Greenwich (now part of New York city), who came to this locality from Ulster county, in 1769. He is mentioned as a man of unusual mental power, and well qualified for that position of influence and popularity which he gained among the settlers of the valley. He had a friendly acquaintance with the Johnsons, but their influence never abated his loyalty to the American cause. His family were ardent Whigs and as such suffered in person and property from the barbarity of Sir John and his followers. In 1780 Sampson Sammons and his sons, Jacob, Frederick and Thomas, were all made prisoners, but the father and Thomas were released, while the others, as well as a number of horses belonging to the father, were taken to Canada. Sampson Sammons was a volunteer in the battle at Oriskany and Jacob was also there. After the departure of Sir John the committee of sequestration leased Johnson Hall and its estate to Sampson Sammons, at a rent of 300 pounds per annum. The village of Sammonsville is named in honor of the pioneer family.

The varied events which fill the history of this locality during the war have been so fully stated in our earlier chapters, that they need no repetition. Sir John's raid in 1780, however, was of so fearful a character, and had such an enduring effect upon the whole valley, that it

seems proper to renew part of its detail. After leaving Johnstown the force sent against Tribes Hill was led by Henry and William Bowen, who had lived in the vicinity and well knew its people. They passed the tory settlement at Albany Bush (near Johnstown) and made their first attack on the house of a staunch Whig named Putnam, against whom they bore a special enmity. Putnam, however, had recently rented his place, its tenants being tories, and these were murdered by the Indians before their identity was known. All the buildings were burned, even those at Caughnawaga, the sole exception being the church.

The raiders next assailed the house of Colonel Fisher, whose wife with two of their children were at this time in Schenectady. The women and servants fled to the woods, but the old patriot himself and his brothers Herman and John, defended the house as long as they had ammunition and finally retired to the chambers. John was killed after a stubborn fight with the savages. Herman leaped from an upper window, hoping to extinguish the flames started by the Indians, but while on a fence he was shot dead. Colonel Fisher himself was knocked down, tomahawked and scalped, and then left for dead. He recovered, however, and rescued his aged mother from the house, carried out his brother's body, and then fell exhausted to the ground. As soon as the Indians had gone one of the negro servants returned to the house and brought water to revive his prostrate master. Colonel Fisher eventually recovered, and after the war built a spacious house¹ on the same site and continued in prominent service, being several years county judge. He always wore a silver plate on his head to cover the scar of the scalping knife.

One of the principal points of attack, next to the Fisher house, was the residence of Adam Fonda, who like Colonel Fisher had fought at Oriskany, where he held the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He was seized and taken to Canada and the house was burned and the fam-

¹ Alfred DeGraff, descendant in the fifth generation from Colonel Fisher, who occupies this house, has reconstructed it with such improvements as to render it one of the most beautiful places in the Mohawk valley. Mr. DeGraff has among other heirlooms a silver dollar which has been in the possession of the family more than a century and a half. Had it been placed at interest at the time referred to it would have yielded to the owner the enormous amount of \$13,000. If the reader doubts this statement let him make the calculation. The date on this coin is 1729, three years before the birth of Washington.

ily scattered, but afterwards they made their way to Schenectady. Before the house was burned one of the Tories stole a large and massive copper tea kettle, which he filled with butter and hid under the bridge, expecting to recover it on his return, but their march led in another direction, and the kettle remained there until discovered and restored to its owner. Mrs. Sarah Striker, of Tribes Hill, who is a granddaughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Fonda, has this very kettle, which is a highly valued heirloom.

After the war Lieutenant-Colonel Fonda returned and built a farmhouse, which is still standing, though remodeled and modernized. He died in 1808 highly respected, and was the last of the sons of old Douw Fonda.

After the destruction and slaughter at the Fisher house and Caughnawaga, the invaders returned to Johnstown and thence to Canada. This, however, was not the only invasion of the valley during the war, and the constant danger kept the inhabitants in constant trepidation. Sir John twice invaded the region, and the Indians under either Butler or Brant, took every opportunity to renew their depredations.

On the return of peace the former inhabitants of the Caughnawaga region returned to their farms, rebuilt their houses and barns and at once began to retrieve their losses. The Tories came also and sought to reclaim their property, but the committee of safety made such earnest opposition that they were obliged to seek homes elsewhere. Their lands had been confiscated and purchased by a new class of settlers from New England, who thenceforth mingled with the Dutch and rapidly improved the whole Mohawk valley. Caughnawaga after the war became a business centre, but retained many of the ancient memorials of colonial times. The old stone church remained unscathed, this being due to the fact that it was considered Butler property and hence was spared by the Tories and Indian invaders.¹ It was built in 1763 and its first pastor was Rev. Thomas Romeyn. In 1795 he was succeeded by Rev. Abraham Van Horne, who died in 1840, at an advanced age. He preached both in Dutch and English and during his ministry he married 1,500

¹The church was built on lands belonging to the Butler estate and the dwelling occupied by this once lordly family is still standing, being now the Wilson farm house.

couples. In 1845 the old church was remodeled and fitted up for an academy, but it was not adapted to that service and in 1868 it was demolished.

A prominent memorial of old Caughnawaga is the Lasher house, a substantial dwelling built by Jelles Fonda. Its location is on the heights which gives it a fine prospect, and no doubt this led to the selection of the site. The building, notwithstanding its age, is of such strength that it bids fair to last another century.

The events we have thus far narrated naturally belong to the history of Mohawk, though they occurred before the creation of the town. When peace returned a more permanent settlement began, and thenceforth the population rapidly increased until all of the farm lands were under profitable cultivation. There were two important events, however, which contributed largely to the prosperity of the town of Mohawk, as well as that of the surrounding territory. One was the completion of the Erie canal in 1825, and the other the construction of the Utica and Schenectady railroad in 1835 and 1836. All along these great thoroughfares prosperous villages were built with varied manufacturing and mercantile enterprises. The county seat hitherto had been at Johnstown, a village accessible only by stage, and the people of the valley were asking for its removal to some more convenient location.

In 1836 the removal was effected, and Fonda was designated as the future county capital.

This removal awoke great dissatisfaction among the inhabitants of the northern part of the county, which led to the creation of Fulton in 1838, but during the previous year an act was passed dividing the town of Johnstown out of which the town of Mohawk was erected.

The town contains an aggregate area of 20,222 acres, and had when created a population of about 3,000. In 1860 the population was 3,136, and in 1890 a trifle less. During the last thirty years there has been no striking increase in population, except in Amsterdam, where the growth has been rapid, elevating the former village into a populous city.

To return to Mohawk we may now properly add a list of supervisors and clerks from the creation of the town to the present time.

Supervisors.—Wm. T. Sammons, 1837; Simeon Sammons, 1838; Lyndes Jones, 1839-40; Abraham P. Graff, 1841-42; Daniel Conyne,

1843-46; John I. Davis, 1847-50; Simeon Sammons, 1851; Abijah Jones, 1852; James W. Kline, 1853; Peter Fritcher, 1854; Seth C. Merrihew, 1855-56; Matthew Van Deusen, 1857; Henry Veeder, 1858; Hamilton Schuyler, 1859; Simeon Sammons, 1860-62; Douw A. Fonda, 1863-64; Henry T. E. Brower, 1865; Thomas S. Sammons, 1866-70; Edward B. Cushney, 1871-72; John D. Campbell, 1873; Stephen Fonda, 1874-76; Matthew D. Moore, 1877; George Jones, 1878; Isaac A. Rosa, 1879-82; Henry R. Royce, 1883-84; Stephen Fonda, 1885; John Peek, 1886; Isaac A. Rosa, 1887-88; Jerry S. Sitterly, 1889; Isaac A. Rosa, 1890-91; George Jones, 1892.

Town Clerks.—Christopher Y. Hammond, 1837; Samuel B. Thorn, 1838-39; Alexander Haggert, 1840; Myndert B. Wendell, 1841-42; Julian Fish, 1843; John L. Lingenfelter, 1844; David F. Hess, 1845; J. Dillenbeck, 1846-47; J. S. Haggert, 1848-49; Garrett H. Teller, 1850; D. H. Van Heusen, 1851; Henry W. Staats, 1852-54; John C. Ausman, 1855; H. W. Staats, 1856; Willett Ferguson, 1857; Giles Doxtater, 1858; Lewis Ferguson, 1859-60; Henry R. Royce, 1861; Giles Doxtater, 1862; David H. Van Heusen, 1863; John V. Davis, 1864-65; David H. Van Heusen, 1866; Abram Fonda, 1867; Daniel C. Hagar, 1868-70; Jacob Hess, 1871-72; Daniel Yost, 1873; Matthew D. Moore, 1874-75; George McNeill, 1876; George L. Davis, 1877-79; Henry R. Royce, 1880; Gideon R. Casler, 1881-84; Wallace Brown, 1885-86; John S. Van Horne, 1887; William Tiffany, 1888; John M. Brown, 1889; G. A. Putman, 1890-91; Charles A. George, 1892.

Present Town Officers.—George Jones, supervisor; Charles A. George, town clerk; Frederick Fisher, Darius V. Berry, Isaiah Sponenberg, George W. Brown, justices of the peace; Charles Christance, highway commissioner; James H. Neahr, collector; William Lentz, overseer of the poor; Jacob Young, William T. Lotridge, Julian Fox, assessors; Richard W. Schuyler, auditor.

THE VILLAGE OF FONDA.

Previous to 1835 the principal part of this village was on the site of old Caughnawaga, but Fonda superseded the latter when the removal of the public buildings took place. During the same year a number of



Atlanta Publishing & Engraving Co. "H."

H. A. Honda

capitalists, among whom were John S. Borst, John L. Graham, James L. Graham, Judge S. W. Jones, Charles McVean and James Porter, organized the Fonda Land Association, and purchased a considerable tract of land, now occupied by the county buildings and the business portion of the village. For the purpose of making improvements the company borrowed a large sum from the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company of New York, with which, among other structures, was built, in 1836, the Fonda hotel, which is still standing, although frequent changes in its name have been made. However promising this scheme may have appeared, it resulted in disaster; the mortgage held by the Trust Company was foreclosed, the property sold, and Mr. Borst, who was the chief manager of its early affairs, became sole owner and proprietor, subject to heavy claims which eventually exhausted his resources.

On the completion of the railroad a depot was built, and Fonda became an important station, while the erection of the public buildings added the dignity of the county capital. During the next twenty years the village steadily increased until it absorbed old historic Caughnawaga. As has been stated, Jelles Fonda was the first merchant doing business in this region. In 1790 General Dodge started in trade, but soon afterward moved to Johnstown. The firm of M. O. Davis & Son was established in 1845, and the old familiar name is still seen on Main street. Peter Conyne has also been many years in trade, and other reputable houses are in operation, but it is hardly necessary to here recall the names of the present merchants as that subject is fully covered in our personal sketches.

Incorporation of the Village.—In 1850, upon the petition to the Court of Sessions at the September term, an order was made incorporating the village, subject to the approval of the electors. The order bore the date of September 3, and named as petitioners Chester S. Bromley, John S. Haggart and Richard H. Cushney. The people confirmed the order at an election held October 4, the total vote being seventy-eight, of which only three were against the measure. The first village election was held on May 13, 1851, pursuant to an act of the legislature, at which time the following officers were chosen: Richard H. Cushney, R. Van Heusen, P. H. Fonda, Charles Timmerman and Douw Van

O'Linda, trustees; John Everson, William B. Van Heusen and Gilbert S. Van Duesen, assessors; Henry W. Staats, collector; Henry Van O'Linda, clerk. The village, according to survey, included 312 acres. In 1868 the main streets were paved, and in 1865 a bridge¹ was built across the Mohawk, which was a very great convenience to the residents of Fonda and Fultonville.

With the gradual growth of the village there arose a demand for a supply of pure and wholesome water; the project was sustained by a popular vote and in 1885 the work was done. A reservoir was built on a suitable eminence, and being well fed by springs, the village is supplied by pipes laid through the principal streets. The cost of the entire work was \$25,000 and the waterworks are under control of a board of commissioners.

Manufactures have been introduced, but thus far only to a limited extent. The earliest efforts in manufacturing (aside from the domestic loom) were made in 1811, when the waters of the Cayadutta were utilized. Grist-mills were built at various places, and about the same time a fulling mill was started by John and Simon Veeder, Henry Fonda, G. Van Dusen and Myndert Wemple, with a capital of \$5,000. At a later day Simon I. Veeder occupied the building and turned it into a satinet factory. He was here five years, and in 1830 sold the property to John Booth, who died in 1843, after which Van Alstyne and Wemple altered the building into a threshing machine factory. In 1860 the property passed into the hands of George F. Mills & Co., who were owners of an adjacent flour-mill, by whom the old factory was equipped for similar use. A few years ago the leading citizens subscribed a large sum to start a knitting-mill, which was built and operated by John and Robert Owen until destroyed by fire. Later on a similar mill was erected by a company having a capital of \$52,000, but the enterprise proved unsuccessful. Still later James Shanahan became its owner, and it is now operated by him in company with John E. Ashe and William S. Briggs. A very important feature in the industries of the village

¹The first bridge across the river at Caughnawaga was chartered and constructed in 1811, but was carried away by the next spring freshet. The second bridge was built by a company chartered in 1823, the work being completed in 1824. This bridge, like that preceding it, was swept away by the flood of March 17, 1865. The present Fultonville and Fonda bridge was built during the summer of the last mentioned year. It is free, but those of earlier years exacted tolls.

are the custom flour and feed and also the roller flour mills of G. F. Mills & Co., also the flour mill operated by R. H. Smith, all of which are on the Cayadutta; also the paper mill, on the same stream. These, with a large and successful cheese factory, comprise nearly all there is in the line of manufactures, but it is highly probable that with such natural advantages the place will eventually become an extensive centre of industry. Fonda indeed has a very promising prospect in the future. The new court-house is a fine addition to its architecture, and the electric road adds much to its facilities.

Church History.—The Reformed Church of Fonda.—In 1763 the Reformed Dutch church of Caughnawaga was built, by the voluntary contributions of the settlers, among whom Sir William Johnson must be mentioned as a large donor. The structure was of stone, "standing with the southern gable to the street (the old turnpike), the steeple being on the rear end of the roof. It was lighted by eight windows and fronted eastward." On a stone tablet over the door was an inscription in Dutch as follows: "Come ye and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, and He will teach us His ways and we will walk in His paths."

The interior of the old church is best described by quoting from a historical sermon delivered by Rev. Thomas W. Jones in 1873. "It had a gallery upon its front side and across the ends. The pulpit, just large enough to admit one person, was on the west side, directly in front of the entrance door, and over it was a sounding board. On the left side of the door was a large square pew, which was said to have been occupied in his day by Sir William Johnson and his family. The portion under the north gallery was furnished with temporary benches designed to seat the Indian and negro slave worshippers."

The first pastor of the church, as has been stated, was Rev. Thomas Romeyn, whose services began in 1772, at which time the consistory was as follows: Elders, Peter Conyne, Johanes Kilts, Johanes Veeder, Frederick Dockstader; deacons, Adam Fonda, Louis Clement, Sampson Sammons, Charles Van Eps. Mr. Romeyn died in 1794, and was followed in the pastorate in 1795 by Rev. Abraham Van Horne, the consistory then being as follows: John Fonda, Garret Van Vrakelin, Joseph Printup, and Frederick Staring, elders; James Lansing, Abra-

ham Vosburgh, Johaness Van Antwerp, and Peter Quackenbush, deacons. The pastors of the church after Mr. Van Horne and until the edifice became private property, were as follows: Robert A. Quinn, called in 1833; Jacob D. Fonda, 1835. The society became indebted to Mr. Fonda for pastoral services, to secure which he purchased the church and parsonage for \$1,300 (the amount of his claim), and afterwards sold it to Rev. Douw Van O'Linda. The latter used the church as an academy, but after two or three years it was occupied as a dwelling. Later on it was purchased by Henry Veeder, and in 1868 it was demolished.

In 1843 the society built a church at the southwest corner of Railroad avenue and Centre street, which was dedicated in October of that year. Professor Andrew Yates of Union College supplied the pulpit about two years, followed in 1884 by the fifth pastor, Rev. Douw Van O'Linda. The latter was succeeded in 1859 by Rev. Philip Furbeck, who resigned in 1862. From that time until 1865 the pulpit was supplied by different clergymen, a large part of the time by Washington Frothingham. "During this period an important action was taken by this church, which materially changed the policy of its government, viz.: the establishment of a Board of Trustees for the purpose of relieving the consistory in the management of its temporal concerns."

The seventh pastor was Rev. John C. Boyd, settled in 1865, during whose pastorate (1868) the church was moved to its present location and substantially remodeled. Rev. Thomas W. Jones became pastor in November, 1870, and continued his labors until April, 1883, when he was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. John A. De Baun. The present membership of the church is about 430.

From 1763 until 1883 this church was known as the Reformed Dutch church of Caughnawaga, but in the last mentioned year, by an order of the court the name was changed to "Reformed Church of Fonda."

Zion Church, Protestant Episcopal.—The removal of the public buildings from Johnstown to Fonda led a number of Episcopal families to seek a residence in the new county seat, where Rev. John Noble, an Episcopal clergyman, frequently held services. Later on the rector of the Johnstown parish performed the same duty, but it was not until about 1864 that Zion parish was organized, with a small number of com-

municants. The church was begun in 1866, and was consecrated in May, 1869. A rector was in service during its early existence, but for many years it has chiefly depended on the Johnstown church for its clerical supplies. The present communicants number about thirty-eight. The wardens are Richard H. Cushney and Henry T. E. Brower; vestrymen, Henry B. Cushney, Giles H. F. Van Horne, Edward B. Cushney, William Fonda, Robert Agnew, John S. Van Horne, Richard N. Casler, Henry Siver.

The Methodist Episcopal church of Fonda was organized in 1842 under charge of Rev. T. W. Pierson, during whose pastorate the first church home was secured. Later on the society built a frame edifice, which, to meet the growth of the congregation, has been twice enlarged, and was substantially rebuilt in 1878. The membership of the church is about 150, and the Sabbath-school about 100. Connected with the church are the Ladies' Aid Society and the Epworth League, the latter having 100 members.

The pastors of the church, with the years of their service, have been as follows: T. W. Pierson, 1842; S. Hart, 1843; Daniel Paige, 1844-45; Myron White, 1846-47; Horace Warner, 1848; G. C. Simmons, 1849-50; W. W. Pierce, 1851; A. W. Garvin, 1852-53; James Tubbs, 1854; Selah W. Brown, 1855-56; A. Wilmot, 1857; John Pegg, 1858; H. C. Sexton, 1859; A. Champlain, 1860; Robert A. Meredith, 1861; Zebulon Phillips, 1862; Jonah Phillips, 1863; M. A. Canoll, 1864; H. L. Grant, 1865-67; P. P. Harrower, 1868-69; H. L. Starks, 1870-72; M. A. Veeder, 1873-74; B. F. Livingston, 1875-77; E. A. Blanchard, 1878; Damas Brough, 1879-81; Milton Tator, 1882-83; George W. Brown, 1884-86; L. A. Dibble, 1887-88; J. W. Quinlan, 1888-91; George W. Brown, 1892.

St. Cecilia's Church (Roman Catholic).—Previous to 1882 this was a mission in charge of the Johnstown pastor, although the church on Main street was built in 1876, but even as far back as the building of the railroad and the canal, Catholic services were held in private dwellings, and by priests who journeyed to this locality from Albany and Troy. The reader will also learn by reading our previous chapters that the Jesuits prosecuted their missionary labors at old Caughnawaga during the seventeenth century. Hence we must conclude that the Roman

Catholics were the first to visit this field, although their labors were in no manner connected with the present church. In 1882 a resident priest was sent to Fonda and St. Cecilia's parish was then created. It now numbers about eighty families, and the pastors of the parish (which includes Tribes Hill) have been Rev. F. D. McGuire, appointed July 9, 1882; Rev. J. J. O'Brien, November 11, 1882; Rev. James Flood, appointment not given, and Rev. John W. Dolan, who was appointed June 26, 1888.

The Mohawk River Bank was organized in 1859, with a capital stock of \$100,000. The first board of directors comprised Daniel, David, George, James, Livingston, Joseph and Fraser Spraker, Abraham J. Davis, Richard H. Cushney, William B. Dievendorf, Isaac S. Frost, Simeon Snow and John Bowdish. The officers were Daniel Spraker, president; John Bowdish, vice-president; Earl S. Gillett, cashier, and Horace Van Evera, teller. The bank was organized and did business under the state law from its inception until 1865, and was then reorganized under the United States law by the name of National Mohawk River Bank. The old officers and directors continued in their respective positions, and the capital also remained unchanged. The bank has a surplus of \$30,000, and from its beginning has averaged an annual dividend of ten per cent. The present officers are Daniel Spraker, president; Richard H. Cushney, vice-president; J. Ledlie Hees, cashier, and J. J. Veeder, teller. Directors, Daniel Spraker, Frazer Spraker, B. F. Spraker, Richard H. Cushney, John H. Starin, and Jacob Dievendorf.

Newspapers.—The first newspaper published in this town was the *Mohawk Farmer*, indefinitely mentioned as having been printed at Caughnawaga "at an early day," but whence it came and whither it went has never been put on record.

In 1836, with the removal of the county seat, the *Johnstown Herald* was also brought to Fonda, a paper owned and published by Philip Reynolds, who changed its name to *Fonda Herald*, and continued its publication four or five years, then selling to William S. Hawley. In 1843 it was bought by Matthew Freeman and Darius V. Berry, by whom the name was changed to *Fonda Sentinel*. In 1846 Mr. Berry retired from the office, and two or three years later Mr. Freeman sold

to Junot J. Whitehouse, who in turn sold to Walter N. Clark. In the meantime the paper had been changed to *Mohawk Valley Democrat*, and was then edited by Isaac M. Gregory.¹ It afterward passed through several ownerships, among them being Clark & Thayer, Charles B. Freeman, Richard Van Antwerp, John E. Ashe, and by the latter it was sold in 1884 to Henry E. Ostrander, who is the present faithful editor and publisher.

The *American Star*, was started at Canajoharie April 5, 1855, by William S. Hawley, and five weeks later moved to Fonda. In 1856 the office was moved to Fultonville by C. B. Freeman, and the name of the paper changed to *Mohawk Valley American*, and it was united with the *Sentinel*. It afterward was fused into the *Mohawk Valley Democrat*.

Tribes Hill.—This pleasant village is located on an elevated part of the Mohawk turnpike, half way between Fonda and Amsterdam. Its population has never been large, nor has it been noted for business, but it has an exceedingly interesting history, which has been in part previously narrated. The lands in this vicinity were purchased by Hendrick and John Hanson, the first deed being executed by the chiefs and sachems of the Mohawk Indians, and afterward granted by the crown (through Governor Hunter), July 17, 1713, and contained two thousand acres. The Hansons settled here about the time the grant was made, and were therefore among the pioneers of the region. Henry Hanson is said to have been the first white child born north of the river. These early events, however, are so fully treated in an earlier part of this chapter that further allusion seems unnecessary. The name Tribes Hill was given to this locality many years ago, but no one knows its origin. Its population, though not large, is highly intelligent, and in this point it is in advance of many places more favored by business advantages. It is noted for bracing air and fine scenery, and this renders it an attractive summer resort. Its public buildings include a new

¹ Mr. Gregory's career since he left Fonda has been very successful. He has edited the *Schenectady Star*, also the *Troy Press*, and later on the *Troy Whig*. He was invited thence to become associate editor of the *Rochester Chronicle* and continued in this service a number of years after the paper fused with the *Democrat*. From Rochester he was invited to the *Buffalo Express*, where he made his mark and whence he was called to the *Elmira Free Press*. Next came an invitation to the editorship of the *Graephic*, a New York illustrated daily, which he conducted successfully for about three years and then he became editor of the *Judge*, a position which he has held since 1886 to the present time. This is certainly an unusual record for one who began as a type setter in a country office.

and spacious school-house and three churches, the broom factory and paper box factory. These, together with Bailey & Johnson's store and the small shops usually found in country villages, comprise its business interests, but a knitting-mill is to be erected, and this will be an important addition to the place.

The Presbyterian Church at Tribes Hill.—At a meeting held in the school-house, July 29, 1841, it was resolved "to build a meeting-house for the convenience and accommodation of the Presbyterian Church Society and congregation at Tribes Hill and its vicinity," and in December following, the society resolved to rent the "slips" in the "meeting-house" for one year. The first pastor of the church was Asa T. Clark, who was installed in the early spring of 1842, and remained about six years, being succeeded by Elnathan R. Atwater, who retired in December, 1850. Lewis M. Shepard became pastor May 18, 1851, and two years later was succeeded by Morgan L. Wood, the latter remaining but a short time on account of poor health. The next pastor was Peter J. Burnham, who was installed September 20, 1853, and remained nearly two years, being followed by William J. McCord for six years. William J. Blaine was installed in 1862, and continued pastor about six years. Since January 1, 1870, Washington Frothingham has supplied the pulpit,

The Methodist Episcopal Church at Tribes Hill was organized in 1863, D. W. Gates being the first pastor. The church was built during the year 1864, and was dedicated December 28. The succession of pastors is as follows: D. W. Gates, three years; A. G. Dievendorf, 1866-68; M. D. Jump, two years; A. W. Smith, two years; C. A. S. Heath, one year; William M. Stanley, one year; S. McChesney, removed; W. L. Wallace and G. H. La Grange, each two years. M. J. Osteyee has been appointed for the fourth year.

The Roman Catholic parish at Tribes Hill was organized in 1882, and prior to that time the place was an out-station of Amsterdam. The priests in charge of the church at Fonda have also conducted the services at Tribes Hill. The first was Rev. F. D. McGuire, followed in succession by J. J. O'Brien, James Flood and John W. Dolan.

Schools.—To return to Fonda, previous to 1887 the schools of this place were conducted upon the same general plan as those of the

town at large. In the year above mentioned, however, upon the presentation of a petition, School District No. 6 was organized as the Union school, which, although a village institution, includes within its limits a larger area than that of the village itself. The first principal of the Union school was John H. Weinmann (now county school superintendent), who conducted it for five years, being succeeded by Charles A. Coons, the present principal. The annual expense of the school is about \$5,200. Connected with it is a fine library of about fourteen hundred volumes, consisting of valuable historical works, with a judicious collection of fiction and miscellaneous books. The fund with which the library was purchased was raised by subscription, and an annual appropriation is made for its enlargement, added to which is an equal amount furnished by the state. The present district officers are Edward B. Cushney, chairman; Ferguson Jansen, secretary; John C. Boyd, visiting committee.

The town of Mohawk is divided into ten school districts, being arranged, so far as possible, with reference to the convenience of the inhabitants. These schools require fourteen teachers who have an average daily attendance of 329, but the number of children is far greater. The aggregate value of school property is \$26,295.

Speaking of education, an important feature in this department is found in the Starin Industrial School, established by Mrs. John H. Starin, whose benefits are shared by Fonda, where Commodore Starin has purchased a building for the purpose. The object is the instruction of children according to their capacity, and to prepare them for future usefulness, and it has met highly encouraging success. The officers of the Fonda branch are as follows: Directors, Mrs. George F. Mills, assistant directors, Mrs. Edward B. Cushney, Mrs. John C. Boyd, Mrs. E. W. Richards, and Mrs. Alfred De Graff; treasurer, Miss Helen Simpson; secretary, Miss Helen Burtch; teacher of calisthenics, Miss Ella Barron.

CHAPTER XXIII.

TOWN OF GLEN.

THIS town, which lies directly south of the Mohawk, is bounded on the east by Schoharie creek (which separates Glen and Florida), on the south by Charleston, and on the west by Root. Its surface includes some beautiful flats, but consists principally of uplands, descending by abrupt declivities to the narrow intervalles along the streams. Auries creek, which has its source in the northwestern part of Charleston, flows in a northeasterly direction and empties into the Mohawk at Auriesville. It was named in memory of an Indian warrior known as "Aaron," which in Dutch is "Aurie." Irish creek, which is the only other important stream, flows in a northeasterly direction and empties into the Schoharie. An interesting natural feature of the town is a chalybeate spring located about one mile east of Glen village, in which neighborhood many attempts have been made to find iron ore, but without success. The water from the spring is very cold and refreshing, and contains iron and sulphur in moderate degrees, sufficient, however, to render it healthful. Another very curious feature in this town is an almost perpendicular bluff on Schoharie creek two miles from its mouth and known by the Indian name of "Cadaughrita." The face of this bluff towards the creek forms one side of a hill about fifty feet high, almost perfectly level on top, with a diamond shaped surface of nearly three acres. All sides of the hill are equally precipitous. The soil in most portions of the town is a loam mixed with clay. The farmers for many years devoted themselves almost entirely to dairying, and as a result many cheese factories were built, but of late the high prices paid for hay has led to the general cultivation of that crop, which is now the principal product.

Glen was formed from Charleston, April 10, 1823, and named in honor of Jacob Saunders Glen, formerly a prominent man of the town, and a patentee of ten thousand acres within its limits. This entire area,



Joel C. Van Horne

including that of the towns of Charleston and Florida, constituted the Mohawk district until 1788, and also the town of Mohawk until 1793, when the territory east of Schoharie creek became Florida, and that west became Charleston.

The early land patents comprising portions of the present town of Glen included the following: Meebee patent, 80 acres, located near the Cadaughrita, granted to John Peterson Meebee, July 20, 1705; and another tract of 600 acres, granted to his brother Peter, April 15, 1726; the two Scott patents, one of 1,500 acres, granted to Lieut. John Scott, October 22, 1722; and another granted to his son and namesake, June 23, 1725, containing 1,100 acres; the two Ten Eyck patents of 1,500 and 185 acres, granted April 29, 1726, and April 20, 1761, to Hendrick Ten Eyck; the Shuckburgh patent of 1,280 acres granted to Richard Shuckburgh and Jacobus Van Dyke, May 28, 1755; the Visger patent, of 900 acres, granted to Johannes Visger, February 25, 1726; Corry's patent, of 25,400 acres, granted to William Corry, George Clark and others, November 19, 1737; and the Aurieskill patent, of 10,000 acres, granted to James De Lancey and four others, November 12, 1737.

First White Settlement.—It is supposed that the Mabie (Meebee) brothers, who obtained the first of the above mentioned patents, moved on to the land soon after 1705, and hence were the first permanent white settlers in Glen. The next pioneer of whom there is any record was Peter Quackenboss, one of three brothers who emigrated from Holland to New York early in the eighteenth century. Quackenboss located on part of Captain Scott's patent, only two or three years after it was granted. He resided for many years at the old Leslie Voorhees place near Auries creek, and had several children, all of whom were grown to mature years when he first came to this country. The story of the romantic courtship of his eldest son, David, who married Ann, daughter of Captain Scott, is still remembered by some of the older residents of the town. The wooing was romantic, inasmuch as David, while plying the suit of a young officer under Scott's command (like John Alden), unconsciously gained the young lady's affections himself. A result of the union thus accomplished was a son, born in 1725, which was named John, and is supposed to have been the first white child born on the south side of the river, between Fort Hunter and the Canajoharie settlements.

The pioneer settlers of Glen included sixteen Irish families brought hither about 1740, under the patronage of William Johnson, afterward baronet. They were located on lands a few miles southwest of Fort Hunter, owned by Henry Shelp and comprising a part of the Corry patent. These families did not remain long, however, for disturbances arising among the Indians a few years later, led them to abandon their rude dwellings and return to Ireland.

Richard Hoff, Marcus Hand, John Ostrom and Matthias Mount settled in the town previous to the revolution. Cornelius Conover and his son Isaac also located here about the same time, the former building a block-house for protection against the Indians. Seth Conover, who came from New Jersey, was also a pioneer, settling in Glen about 1785.

Among those who located in the town during the closing years of the last century were J. R. Van Evera, John Van Derveer, John Edwards, and John H. Voorhees. Still later additions to the population were the Vedders, Silmsers, Vrooman, Wood, Pruyn, Putman and Enders.

George Cuck, a notorious tory who had often led the blood-thirsty scalping parties of Brant and Johnson, was captured in this town in the fall of 1779. He had not been seen in the country for some time and it was supposed that he had returned to Canada, but toward spring it became known that he was concealed at the house of John Van Zuyler, who lived near the residence of the late Major James Winne. The secret transpired through information imparted to James Cromwell, a young man who was paying attention to one of Van Zuyler's daughters. A party consisting of Lieutenant Quackenboss, Isaac and Abraham Covenhoven, John Ogden, Jacob Collier, Abraham J., and Peter J. Quackenboss, Martin Gardinier, James Cromwell, Gilbert Van Alstyne, Nicholas Gardinier, Henry Thompson and Nicholas Quackenboss surrounded the house, discovered Cuck's place of concealment and shot him. Van Zuyler was then arrested and sent prisoner to Albany.

Many of the settlements in Glen suffered severely from the ravages of the revengeful tories and Indians in 1780.

Early Mills.—Peter and Simon Mabie built the first saw-mill and carding machine in the town, probably about 1797. The first grist-mill was erected about the same time by Peter Quackenboss. It stood

about a quarter of a mile from Auriesville on the bank of the creek, and the excavation made for the old race-way can still be seen.

The first store in Glen of which any record can be obtained was kept by Abraham D. Quackenboss, who erected a building for that purpose, the brick being made on the premises. This store stood about two miles below the present village of Fultonville. By strict integrity and honest dealing with the Indians, who constituted the larger share of his patrons, Quackenboss built up a large business for those times, and when the revolution became imminent his Indian friends tried to persuade him to go with them to Canada. Their proposition was met by a prompt refusal, but so sincere was their respect for him that they solemnly resolved not to molest any portion of his goods or property. It appears, however, that during a raid, some time later, the Indians helped themselves freely to such of the contents of his store as were eatable, but did not harm the buildings. Among the raiders was a man named Harrington, who had formerly been in Quackenboss's employ, and he, remaining behind, applied the torch to the store. When the Indians learned of this they were so incensed at the breach of compact, that a tomahawk was leveled at Harrington's head, and it is said one savage dealt him a terrific blow, but after further consultation he was allowed to live.

John Rossa began business in the Quackenboss residence at the close of the war, and his was the only store in the town until John Smith began trading on the site of Glen village in 1797. Other merchants will be mentioned in connection with the separate villages further on in this chapter.

Schools, Past and Present.—John Hazard taught the first school in the town, this early place of learning being the house of Abraham D. Quackenboss, above mentioned. The school was opened shortly after the close of the revolution and at that time was the only one within a great distance. A very early school-house stood on the river road, near Mill Point, and its master, whose name was McCready, maintained strict discipline by the free use of the rod. Another school was erected at this point about 1820. The district school system was generally adopted throughout the state at the beginning of the present century, and since then there has been a gradual improvement both in impart-

ing instruction and also in physical culture. In the work of education Glen holds a very creditable position, the town being divided into nine school districts, with 690 children of school age, of which number 497 are pupils, the average daily attendance is 264 and twelve teachers are employed, to whom the sum of \$4,303.42 was paid in salaries during 1891. The school libraries contain 680 volumes, their total value being \$276, and the various school buildings are valued at \$21,150.

Civil Organization.—The first town meeting in Glen was held on the first Tuesday in April, 1823, at which time the following board of officers was elected: Supervisors, William Putman; town clerk, Ebenezer Green; assessors, James Vorhees, Thomas Van Derveer and Jacob F. Starin; commissioners of highways, Jacob F. Lansing and Henry M. Gardinier; overseers of the poor, Elijah Mount and Christian Enders; commissioners of schools, John C. Van Alstine and Howland Fish; inspector of schools, Cornelius C. Van Horne; collector, Abraham Aumack; constables, John C. Smith, William L. Hollady and Bement Sloan.

The supervisors of the town from 1823 to the present time, and the dates of their service, are as follows: William Putman, 1823; Christian Enders, 1824; Abraham V. Putman, 1825–28; Peter Wood, 1829–31; Abraham V. Putman, 1832–33; Peter Wood, 1834; James Winner, 1835; Harmanus Mabee, 1836–38; Peter Wood, 1839; Garrett Marlett, 1840; Abraham V. Putman, 1841; William B. Wemple, 1842–44; Garrett Enders, 1845–47; Peter Van Evera, 1848–50; William B. Wemple, 1851; Peter Van Evera, 1852; Victor A. Putman, 1853–55; Lewis Van Epps, 1856; Victor A. Putman, 1857–58; Lewis Van Epps, 1859; Frothingham Fish, 1860; Jacob Pruyn, 1861; William H. Printup, 1862; Frothingham Fish, 1863; Victor A. Putman, 1864; L. J. Bennett, 1865; William H. Wemple, 1866–67; John K. Van Horne, 1868–70; John O. Vedder, 1871–72; William R. Chapman, 1873; Edward Wemple, 1874–76; Richard Winne, 1877–79; J. S. G. Edwards, 1880; John H. Morrison, 1881; William H. Baird, 1882–83; Jay H. Faulkner, 1884–85; Henry Johnson, 1886–88; Jacob J. Veeder, 1889; Richard Winne, 1890; John V. Putman, 1891–92.

The town clerks during a corresponding period are as follows: Ebenezer Green, 1823–24; Jonathan Lee, 1825–28; John Ostrom, jr.,

1829-31; Jacob J. Enders, 1832-33; Garrett Marlett, 1834; John Hanchet, 1835-36; John Visser, 1837-39; Andrew J. Abel, 1840-41; John Perrin, 1842; Joseph Nolan, 1843-44; John Visser, 1845-48; William S. Smith, 1849-50; William H. Aumack, 1851-52; Jacob J. Enders, 1853-54; Joseph Noxon, 1855; Philip Pruyn, 1856; John Visser, 1857; Giles H. Mount, 1858-60; Richard Van Antwerp, 1861; Gilbert H. Manning, 1862; H. N. Vorhees, 1863; George Ehle, 1864; William H. Wemple, 1865; Charles H. Quackenbush, 1866-67; Peter D. Wood, 1868-69; Wellington Cross, 1870; Silias W. Horning, 1871; Charles J. Ostrom, 1872-73; John F. Clement, 1874; Delevan Polhamus, 1875; Bartholomew Foody, 1876; Seward Kline, 1877; Delevan Polhamus, 1878-79; Henry Johnson, 1880-81; Jacob J. Veeder, 1882-83; Peter McTaggart, 1884-85; Horace E. Hoag, 1886; Frank A. Perkins, 1887-88; John C. Marlette, 1889-90; Willis Baird, 1891; F. S. Veeder, 1892.

The principal town officers at present are: Supervisor, John V. Putman; town clerk, Frank S. Veeder; justices of the peace, H. H. Rulison, Richard Relyea, J. H. Ostrom and George M. Albot; assessors, Nicholas Goodard, Peter H. Mabey and Adam D. Frank; collector, Isaac J. Tallmadge.

VILLAGES AND HAMLETS.

Auriesville, situated at the mouth of the creek from which it takes its name, was the first collection of houses in Glen of sufficient importance to deserve the name of village. The grist-mill erected by Peter Quackenboss within a quarter of a mile of this place shortly after the revolution, attracted the farmers for a long distance. Auriesville became the centre of considerable trade about the beginning of the present century, when Robert Dunbar opened a store on the site of the village. A short time afterward, and prior to the completion of the canal, Jeremiah Smith engaged in trade at this point, carrying a large stock of goods, and doing a profitable business. John C. Van Alstine conducted a store in Auriesville from 1814 until 1855, and was postmaster for many years. The post-office was established there January 26, 1824, Allen H. Jackson receiving the first appointment. Among his successors have

been John Hand, John C. Van Alstine, William Irving, David Wood, John C. Putman, and the present incumbent, George J. Abel.

A short distance east from Auriesville is a small private cemetery, surrounded by fir trees, which mark the graves of the parents of the late James Archibald, of Scranton, one of the ablest civil engineers of his day. He accompanied his parents from Scotland in early youth, and was reared in Auriesville, whence he engaged in constructing the Delaware and Hudson canal under the superintendence of John B. Jervis. Mr. Archibald did more to open the early resources of northern Pennsylvania than any other man, and in addition to his distinction in science is his rare beauty of personal character.

The Reformed Church of Auriesville was organized just prior to the middle of the present century, under the direction of Rev. Mr. Jukes. Among the pastors of this society was Rev. John Nott (a son of President Nott, of Union College), and Rev. Francis M. Kip, the latter being succeeded in 1883 by the present minister, Rev. John C. Boyd, whose residence is in Fonda. The society embraces about sixty communicants, and has an active Sunday-school with 100 scholars, of which Milan Pierce is superintendent.

A short distance east of Auriesville, on an eminence of ground, is located "The Shrine," a place of religious worship for adherents of the Roman Catholic faith. Pilgrimages are made to this spot by large numbers of Romanists during each season. The "Shrine" is supposed to mark the spot where a Jesuit missionary was killed by the Indians during the seventeenth century.

Glen village, situated on the highlands four miles south of Fultonville, near the centre of the town, was settled during the closing years of the revolution, and was for a long time afterward known as Voorheesville. The first merchant at this place was John Smith, who opened a store there in 1797. Later on Peter Voorhees began business there, and from him the village took its early name. He afterwards removed to Lysander, and his son, Henry P. Voorhees, became a successful merchant in Fultonville.

The post-office at Glen was established May 19, 1823, and the first appointment was given to Cornelius H. Putman. His successors include Jacob Burton, Hermon P. Maybee, William A. Kelley, John

Hanchet, Adam Smith, Alonzo Putman, William H. Steinberg, Philip Pruyn, John Visher, John V. S. Edwards, Joseph Noxon, Tunis Van Derveer and the present incumbent, Edward Edwards.

There are two churches in the village, both of which sprang from the first Reformed Dutch Church of Glen, which was organized in 1795, the house of worship being soon begun but very slowly finished, and services, indeed, were held in it while it was in progress. Edward Jenks was the first minister, and Peter Vrooman filled the office of deacon for many years. The old building was used until 1842, when it was removed by J. V. S. Edwards, and another erected in its place, meetings being held in the latter until 1876, when it was destroyed by fire and the present beautiful church erected. The Rev. Joseph Thyne, who resides in Johnstown, officiates at this church.

The True Dutch Reformed Church of Glen resulted from a dissension in the above mentioned congregation, but is not flourishing at present. The last minister was Rev. N. A. Fish, of Albany, who officiated at the meetings of this society until his death. Mr. Lansing then led the meetings for a time, but advancing years finally compelled him to relinquish his task, and no regular services are now held.

Mill Point is situated on Schoharie creek, and in early times was the centre of considerable business. Francis Saltz settled directly opposite this place about the middle of the last century and together with "Boss" Putman purchased the Shuckburg patent of 1,200, acres on a portion of which Mill Point is located. He sold the site of the place to a son-in-law named McCready, disposing of another farm to a second son-in-law named George Young, and a third farm to his grandson, Francis Frederick. It is said that he conveyed two hundred acres of land to Peter Crush upon condition that the latter should marry his youngest daughter, who was a cripple and unable to walk. Crush accepted, built a house on the tract and then carried his wife to it upon his back.

Fultonville is the youngest village in Glen, but owing to its favorable location on the Erie canal, it long ago became the chief centre of trade and population, outstripping the older and more remote settlements. Its early importance as a trading point was due to the construction of the canal, by which coal and merchandise destined to points on the north side of the river, and also in Fulton county, naturally found an outlet.

Later on Fultonville became the southern terminus of a plank road leading to Johnstown and the building of the West Shore road has added much to its importance.

The comfort and elegance which characterize the homes of the village, as well as the beauty of its streets and private grounds, are due to the good taste which forms so prominent a feature among its leading families.

In revolutionary days the site of Fultonville was known as "Van Epp's Swamp," a large portion of the land being then owned by the Van Epps family, whose pioneer (Charles Van Epps) located here at a very early day. It may be said that even at the beginning of the present century the place had but little growth, but in 1795 John Starin established an inn on the bank of the Mohawk, a few rods south of the present bridge, and this seemed a beginning of future development. He was a grandson of Nicholas Starin, one of the pioneers of the valley, and was born near the present site of the village in 1750. He served in the revolution and so did eight other members of the family, a record of patriotism which is indeed rare. Some years later John Starin opened a store in connection with the inn. His son Myndert, born in 1787, carried the Johnstown mail on horseback, and as the circuit court was often held at his father's public house, he early gained a knowledge of general affairs. Upon the close of the war of 1812, in which he participated, he began a successful business in Johnstown, and later on removed to Sammonsville, but in 1822 various circumstances led him to return to his native place, and entering into partnership with Thomas Robinson, the firm of Starin & Robinson was formed. They purchased a large tract, including the present site of Fultonville, which was then laid out and named after Robert Fulton, the founder of steam navigation. The firm embarked into various branches of industry, their plant including mills for sawing lumber, grinding grain, making paper, spinning wool and dressing cloth. The Erie canal, which was then in process of construction, led the firm to build a dry dock and boat yard, and thus the foundation of the present village was laid.

The business interests of the place were increased in 1825 by Henry P. Voorhees, who established a store on the south bank of the canal. He was a native of Glen, having been born about 1794 near the settle

ment known as "Log Town." His father, Peter Voorhees, was for a number of years a successful merchant in Voorheesville, now called Glen village. Henry P. Voorhees was the leading merchant of Fultonville for many years, increasing his facilities for trade each year and gaining a wide reputation as well as making a fortune. He built a large store and also warehouses near the canal, and afterwards admitted to partnership William A. Mears who had long served him as a faithful clerk. Mr. Mears built a dwelling and was a successful business man, but is now passed away, leaving a happy memory. To return to Mr. Voorhees. He erected the mansion long known as the "Voorhees place" and remained in business until 1856, when advancing years led him to retire. He then removed to New Castle, Del., where the remaining years of a long and busy life were passed.

We may also mention in this connection a number of other firms who were engaged in business in the village during its early days and who will be remembered by some of the older residents. Among them were Clark & Post, Devoe & Martin, McArthur & McKinley, Plantz & Argersinger, Crumwell & Fink, Frisby & McConkey, Shuler & Wilcox, Blood & Conyne, Scott Campbell, S. F. Underwood, Starin & Freeman, L. V. Peek & Co., and Chapman & Fonda. Canal stores were also carried on at the lower end of the village by Peter Fonda and Henry Starin, and indeed the canal trade was in those days an important factor in the prosperity of the place.

Among the representatives of the medical profession during the opening years of the present century we recall the name of Dr. Alexander Sheldon, who was a man of much prominence. He was elected to the assembly in 1800, and afterwards re-elected for several terms, during which he frequently held the office of speaker. Other early physicians were Drs. Lathrop, Van Est, and Smith. Dr. Thompson Burton, a native of Charleston, after practicing several years in that town, located at Fultonville in 1846 and continued in service until his last illness. He was at the time of his death the oldest physician in the county.

In the legal profession we recall Howland Fish, father of Judge Frothingham Fish, the latter still a resident of Fultonville, also Isaac H. Tiffany, a native of Keene, N. H., who held a respectable rank and passed his declining years in Fultonville where he died in 1859, aged eighty

years. He read law with Aaron Burr, but the majority of his professional life was spent in Schoharie county.

Fultonville is adorned by the magnificent residence and grounds of Commodore John H. Starin, which is the finest country seat in this state, west of the Hudson. Nature has done much, but art, and taste, and wealth have been required to give that perfection which marks this establishment. The grounds are thrown open to the public on certain days of the week by the generous proprietor, and the public improves the opportunity to enjoy the flowers, statuary and prospect to which they are thus made welcome.

The post office at Fultonville was established December 12, 1832, and William M. Gardinier received the first appointment. His successors and the years in which they were appointed are Cornelius Gardinier, 1841; William Shuler, 1843; John H. Starin, 1849; William Shuler, 1853; Giles H. Mount, 1861; J. H. Morrison, 1885; and William Wiles, the present incumbent, who took charge of the office October 1, 1889.

Fultonville was incorporated by act of the legislature, June 19, 1848, and the election of officers took place on the 10th of the next August. The first trustees were Andrew J. Yates, Howland Fish, William B. Wemple, Thomas R. Horton and Delancey D. Starin. The first clerk was Frothingham Fish. The present officers are Robert Wemple, president; William H. Wemple, W. A. Fuller, William Foody, trustees; Adam A. Snyder, collector; O. F. Conable, treasurer; and Frank S. Veeder, clerk.

Among the notable public improvements which have taken place in recent years may be mentioned the paving of Main street with wooden blocks from the bridge to the Reformed Church. The work was done during the summer of 1891, and cost about \$6,500, but it has given general satisfaction.

The first bridge across the Mohawk connecting Fultonville and Caughnawaga was a low wooden structure, built in 1811. It was swept away by high water and a ferry was used until 1823, when a covered bridge was built. The second structure was in use until March 17, 1865, when it also was carried away by a flood, and the present iron bridge was built during the following summer. The plank road between Ful-

tonville and Johnstown was constructed in 1849, but it has been discontinued between Fonda and Fultonville.

The Reformed Protestant (Dutch) Church of Fultonville is the oldest religious body in the village, dating its organization from November 24, 1838, when it was formed through the assistance of a delegation from the Caughnawaga church. The society rapidly increased and a house of worship was erected in November, 1839, on land bestowed for this purpose by the Putman family. The first pastor was Rev. David Dyer, who was succeeded by Rev. J. M. Van Buren. During the latter's pastorate the church and its contents were destroyed by fire, after which services were held in the school-house for several years. Another house of worship was erected in 1856. Mr. Van Buren remained with the society until 1852 and was succeeded in the pastorate by the Rev. Ransford Wells, who came in 1857 and remained eleven years. Among his successors may be mentioned Revs. H. S. Teller, J. L. Kip, jr., and F. V. Van Vranken, the latter having just finished a successful pastorate of ten years, and accepted a call to Philmont. His successor is Rev. William Schmitz. The present membership of the society is about 130, connected with which is an active Sunday-school of which Giles H. Mount was superintendent for eight years and Rev. Mr. Van Vranken about three years.

The Methodist Episcopal society of Fultonville was organized January 31, 1854, with twelve members, and the present church was built during the same year. The first minister was Rev. N. G. Spaulding, and among his successors we may recall Revs. J. W. Carhart, Homer Eaton, F. Widmer, A. J. Dievendorf, H. D. Kimball, John Pegg, Eri Baker, D. Cronk, Harmon Chase, P. P. Harrower, J. P. Huller and F. P. Youlen, all of whom filled the pastorate of this church prior to 1878. In that year Rev. J. R. Truax was appointed to the charge, being followed in 1879 by Rev. C. W. Rowley. Rev. H. C. Baskerville came in 1880, and was succeeded by Rev. A. H. Nash in 1881. Rev. W. H. Hoag was pastor from 1884 until the appointment of Rev. E. C. Hoyt in 1886. The latter remained three years and was succeeded by the present incumbent, Rev. G. W. Easton, in 1890. The church has about seventy members and the Sunday-school 125 scholars, Lester Carson being superintendent.

Cemeteries.—Fultonville has two beautiful cemeteries. One of these, situated on the hill southwest of the village, is a model of the landscape gardener's art, and was established by the citizens of the village in the fall of 1848. The ground was purchased from Garret Yates by a committee composed of Henry P. Voorhees, Cornelius Gardinier, Everett Yates, Joseph Miller and Howland Fish. The land was then laid out into suitable plots and sold at auction. Additional territory has since been purchased and the beauty and attractiveness of the place greatly enhanced by Commodore John H. Starin, who has also at great expense erected a magnificent mausoleum for his family.

The Maple Avenue Cemetery association was formed in 1873 and assumed the management of Maple Avenue Cemetery, a beautiful place of mortuary rest, situated on the hill about half a mile east of the village. The natural features of this ground have been increased by careful improvement, thus rendering it very attractive.

Newspapers, past and present.—The *Montgomery County Whig*, a weekly paper, was started at Fultonville in May, 1840, by Flavius J. Mills and within a year was rented to Benjamin F. Pinkham, who continued it until March, 1841. It then passed into the hands of Thomas R. Horton, who conducted it through many vicissitudes for nearly forty-nine years, with the exception of two years during the late rebellion, when he left the paper in charge of his brother, J. W. Horton. Its title was changed to the *Montgomery County Republican* in 1857, under which it is still published, having been purchased by Abram D. Smith in September, 1890. Mr. Smith is a practical journalist, and has been rewarded in his efforts by the increase in circulation, which has doubled since it came under his control.

The *Mohawk Valley American* was edited and published in 1856 by Charles B. Freeman, who conducted it with a fair degree of success until 1864, when he purchased the *Fonda Sentinel*, and united the two papers under the name of the *Mohawk Valley Democrat*, whose publication has been successfully continued.

The Masonic order is represented in Fultonville by Fultonville Lodge, No. 531, F. & A. M. The present officers are William B. Wemple, W. M.; G. L. Davis, S. W.; A. Z. Wemple, J. W.; Charles Rickard, treasurer; F. H. Saunders, secretary; Harry Empie, S. D.; G. Ander-

son, J. D.; F. Houbertz, S. M. C.; D. C. Nellis, J. M. C.; J. C. Gilbert, tyler.

The manufacturing and industrial interests of a village contribute so much to its general prosperity, that we now offer a brief view of these operations in Fultonville. The most extensive is the Starin Silk Fabric Company, of which Alfred De Graff is president. This enterprise was established several years ago and is now giving employment to upwards of 150 workers.

The factory of Myers & Parker, who manufacture brooms and brushes in great variety, is located in the western part of the village near the river. This enterprise furnishes employment to about 100 workers.

The Mohawk Valley Lumber Company operates a very extensive factory, which is under the supervision of James S. Burr.

The foundry of William B. Wemple's Sons on the south bank of the canal is one of the oldest plants of its kind in Montgomery county. The firm of Wemple & Yates, which was established in 1845, began business on the north side of the canal opposite the present works, and succeeding in part to the original foundry that had been carried on there since the beginning of inland navigation. In 1847 the foundry was moved to its present quarters. Wemple & Yates were successively followed by Wemple, Yates & Co., William B. Wemple & Sons, and later by the present firm, which is composed of Nicholas, William H., and Edwin Wemple. The firm is engaged in general foundry work and the manufacture of iron water wheels.

W. B. Cross & Co. operate the extensive flour and feed mills on the south bank of the canal, formerly conducted by P. Van Antwerp & Son, and furnishes employment to a number of men.

The Fultonville National Bank was organized January 1, 1883, and opened its doors for business on the 13th of March following, with a capital of \$50,000. The officers of the institution are John H. Starin, president; Alfred De Graff, vice-president; Lorenzo V. Peek, cashier, and O. F. Conable, teller.

One of the most important of the beneficent efforts, not only in Fultonville, but also in the Mohawk valley, is the Starin Industrial School founded by Mrs. John A. Starin for the purpose of instructing children according to their needs and capacity, and fit them for future usefulness.

The president is Mrs. Frothingham Fish ; vice-president, Mrs. Isaac M. Davis, and secretary, Mrs. Lorenzo V. Peek. The institution has been in successful operation for several years, and its benefits have been widely shared, hundreds indeed of pupils having been in attendance. A branch of this school has been formed in Fonda, where Commodore Starin has recently purchased a building for the purpose. The commodore has also conferred on Fultonville a spacious and elegant free reading room with a large and well selected library, which is the resort of all who desire mental improvement. Both sexes are equally welcome, and the goodly attendance shows how the institution is appreciated. The commodore purchased a building for the purpose, now known as Cobblestone Hall, and it has been adapted with both convenience and elegance to its present use.¹

CHAPTER XXIV.

TOWN OF FLORIDA.

IN 1772, soon after the creation of Tryon county, its territory was divided into districts, that part lying most easterly being called Mohawk, which of course included the lands now forming this town. In 1788 Mohawk itself was divided and formed into townships, the portion north of the river taking the name of Caughnawaga, and the south part retaining the original name of Mohawk. On March 12, 1793, the towns of Florida and Charleston were created from the mother township, by which action the old historic name was abandoned, and not again revived until 1837.

Florida includes all the lands of the county lying south of the Mohawk and east of Schoharie creek, and is the largest in area, except Root, of any of the towns of the county, containing 28,364 acres. The greater

¹ The building thus referred to was erected by the late Jephth R. Simms, the historian of the Mohawk valley, who there wrote his "Border Wars" which first gave him prominence. Later on he removed to Fort Plain where he passed the remainder of his life. His last work, "The Frontiersmen of New York," is a full detail of local history, such as no other man could have written, and has given its author distinction.

part of the surface is a rolling upland, about 600 feet above the valley. Bean Hill, in the south part of the town, is the highest point of land in the county, and estimated to be 700 feet above tide. The Mohawk on the north, and Schoharie creek on the west, are the largest streams touching the town, while the Chuctenunda and Cowilliga (said to signify "Willow") creeks are watercourses within the town, the first named being the larger and the latter less in size.

The earliest occupants of this region were the Mohawk Indians, and within the limits of the town, at the north of Schoharie creek, was one of their three most famous castles. This place in Mohawk language was called "Icanderoga" or "Teondeloga," meaning "two streams coming together." The castle which stood near the place was called "Os-sev-ne-non," or "One-on-gon-re," according to New York Colonial History, and has been described as "a square surrounded with palisades, without bastions or out works." We may add that the enclosure was large enough to admit of the erection of huts for the inhabitants of the locality. However, in 1693, Frontenac and his French and Canadian Indian forces invaded the Mohawk county and destroyed three of their most important castles, that at the mouth of the Schoharie, called the lower castle, being of the number.

Soon after 1700 the Germans who had made a temporary home on the banks of the Hudson, began settlement in the valley of the Mohawk, which had first been promised them, and by the year 1710 they had extended their settlements west of Schenectady. These lands, as has been stated, had been promised them under the patronage of Queen Anne, who was their generous protector, and induced them to emigrate to the new world. The settlement by the Germans in this region at the time, however, was attended with much danger, and to protect them as far as possible, forts were built at various points in the valley, one being at the site of the old castle at the mouth of the Schoharie. This was done during the time of Governor Hunter, and the fort was named in his honor. The contract for its construction was taken October 11, 1711, by Garrett Symouce, Barent and Hendrick Vrooman, John Wemp and Arent Van Patten. The walls were formed of logs, well pinned together and twelve feet high, the enclosure being 150 feet square. After the close of the French war (1763) the fort was abandoned,

Surrounded by the palisades of Fort Hunter, and in the centre of the enclosure, stood the historic edifice known as Queen Anne's Chapel. It was erected by the builders of the fort, being in fact a part of their contract. It was built of limestone, was twenty-four feet square, with a belfry. The chapel was built by order of Queen Anne at her own expense, and she also gave a Bible and a valuable set of plate for the communion table. The ruins of the old fort were torn down at the beginning of the revolution and the chapel surrounded by heavy palisades, block-houses being built at the corners on which cannon were mounted. During the war Fort Hunter was garrisoned, a part of the time being under command of Captain Tremper, and here, also, the friendly Oneidas found a safe refuge when in danger of attack from the British, or their former Iroquois friends, but now dreaded enemies. During the construction of the Erie canal it became necessary to remove the chapel, its walls being used in building locks.

In accordance with the English custom a glebe of 300 acres was attached to Queen Anne's chapel. It was placed under the ownership of the "Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts," under whose care the chapel and a missionary was maintained for more than sixty years.

The statement has been made, although we fail to discover any reliable record to confirm it, that the lands now included by the town of Florida were originally a part of a vast tract purchased from the Indians by Walter Butler. About the year 1737 Sir Peter Warren, uncle and patron of William Johnson (afterward the baronet), became the owner of a large tract in the town, his grantors being Charles Williams and others, who were the patentees of 14,000 acres. The Warren purchase became known as "Warren's Bush," and was a part of the estate over which William Johnson, land agent, became superintendent. On the death of Sir Peter, the unsold portion of this estate was conveyed in three parts, one to Charles Fitzroy (Lord Southampton), one to the Earl of Abingdon, and the other to Henry and Susannah Gage. The lands about Fort Hunter, and extending across Schoharie creek, were patented July 20, 1705, to John Peterson Mabie. The patentees of other lands in the town (all granted in 1735) were Edward and Phyllas Harrison, Anne Wilmot, Maynard and Elizabeth Guerin, Henry Crosby and William Crosby, jr.

William Johnson came to this vicinity in the spring of 1738, where he acted as agent for Sir Peter Warren. His first location was on the south bank of the Mohawk, about a mile below the village of Port Jackson, where he opened a store in connection with his land traffic, and sold goods to the settlers and Indians. His profits were large, enabling him to make land purchases which ultimately resulted in a handsome fortune. In 1742 Johnson began preparations for the erection of a large and comfortable mansion on the north side of the river (in the present town of Amsterdam), which he occupied in 1744, and to which was given the name Mount Johnson. About a mile or two below Johnson's store dwelt the pioneers, Alexander and Hamilton Phillips, with whom lived Catherine Weisenbergh, the German girl who became housekeeper for the young land agent and merchant, and whom he afterward married.

The Germans or Palatines (as they were called) who settled in the valley had not at that time any valid title to the land, but were considered as tenants by sufferance, and it was not until the lands were patented that a permanent occupation took place. The efforts of the land agent and merchant, Johnson, contributed largely to this end. He sold and rented parcels of the Warren tract, cleared the land and planted orchards. Martinus Cline and Francis Saltz leased farms on the Warren tract nearly opposite Mill Point, about 1750, the Cline farm being north of Saltz. Peter Young was another pioneer who settled on the east bank of Schoharie creek. He leased lands on the Warren tract paying an annual rent of five shillings ten pence for ten years, but eventually he became owner. Peter Young had three sons, George, William and Peter, jr., all of whom married and settled in the town. Peter Young's wife rendered great assistance to the distressed inhabitants of the locality during the war, she having relatives among the Tories, and therefore being in no fear of them. Indian invasions of the region were frequent, and the mere sight of a few hostile savages and Tories naturally alarmed the whole settlement and caused them to flee to a camping place on the Young farm, where the good woman provided them with food. The Young farm contains an old burying-ground in which is interred the remains of several generations of this pioneer family.

In the Young neighborhood lived Philip Frederick, who had previously married the daughter of Francis Saltz. Frederick cleared a farm and built a house, but what was of still greater importance, he also constructed a grist-mill which proved a great convenience to the settlers.

Abraham Van Horne, whose name is associated with many important events of early history of Tryon county, settled on a farm about one mile south of the Young place. He was member of assembly in 1777-78-79-80-81, and again in 1786. He was also sheriff of the county in 1781. He was a thorough patriot, and took an active part in the war. His wife, whose maiden name was Hannah Hoff, is likewise worthy of mention, for by her sympathy and still more generous aid she contributed greatly to the comfort of the neighborhood.

The first bridge of any importance ever built over Schoharie creek was that constructed in 1796 at Fort Hunter by Major Isaiah Depuy, who, at the time of his death (1804), was a resident of Fultonville. After its completion a stage route was established along the south side of the river from Albany to Canajoharie and adjacent settlements. In 1814 Christian Service, a tanner and manufacturer of boots and shoes, living in Florida, was drowned while attempting to cross this bridge. The accident occurred in the night, the ice having carried away the eastern portion of the bridge, a fact unknown to the unfortunate man, who urged his team with a whip, and they leaped into the water, carrying himself and the sleigh with them. David Cady, a land surveyor, settled in Florida about 1780, and became agent for the Watts tract, a part of the original Warren's Bush. He married Anne Shuler and lived in Florida until his death, in 1818. He was one of the early merchants of the town, and held the offices of justice, supervisor, county judge, member of assembly, and also a commission as captain of militia. Daniel Cady, afterward a distinguished lawyer and judge of the Supreme Court, lived for a time at David Cady's house, but he moved to Johnstown about 1795 and there rose to a position of eminence.

Among the other early prominent men of Florida we may recall the name of Samuel Jackson, merchant and capitalist, who filled various town offices, and was further honored with a seat in the state legislature and nomination as presidential elector. In addition to those who have

been mentioned as early settlers in Florida, there may also be recalled the names of other heads of families, such as Shuler, Overbaugh, Serviss, Ruff, Pettengill, Staley, Schuyler, Reynolds, Hill, Bent, Smith, Stanton, Vanderveer, Hale, Vorhees, De La Mater, Johnson, Green, Ellis, Herrick, De Graff, Cholett, Murray, Covenhoven, Earl, Clayton, Quackenboss, Snook, Gordon, Young, Mudge, and others, all of whom are worthy of some notice, and many of whom will be found further mentioned among the family sketches of this volume.

Town Organization.—As has been previously stated, the original district of Mohawk was formed in 1772, embracing within its limits a large territory. In 1788 the district was divided and the town of Mohawk created, including the towns now called Florida, Glen and Charleston. On March 12, 1793, Mohawk was divided and the towns just named separately organized. In the clerk's office in Florida there has been preserved an original volume of records of the old town of Mohawk, by which it appears that the first town meeting was held on the first Tuesday of April, 1788, when there was elected a supervisor, two collectors, five assessors, five constables, three overseers of poor, eight fence-viewers, four poundkeepers, and eleven pathmasters. The first meeting was held at the Church (the chapel), and the second at the house of John Visscher, town clerk, at Fort Hunter. Thirty-one pathmasters were elected in 1789, not a surprising fact when we consider that the town then included both Florida and the original Charleston.

This old book of records also discloses an interesting fact in the early history of the town. The land proprietors preferred renting to selling their estates, caring more for their income than the principal thus invested. This system eventually became a great annoyance to the tenants, and was finally settled by quit claim deeds granted by proprietors to the lessees. On the old record there appears one of these deeds by which Jane Watts, wife of John Watts, released to sundry tenants her interest in Warrensburg (Warren's Bush). The release was executed November 13, 1793, and is only important in this chapter from the fact that it names as grantees many of the pioneers of the town, viz.: David Cady, Nathan Stanton, Ezra Murray, Philip and Peter Frederick, William and Peter Youngs, George and Jacob Staley, John Vanderveer, Peter and Jacob Houck, Elisha Cady, George Christian, and

Peter Serviss, Roolciffe Covenhoven, Asa Waterman, John Quackenboss, Ephraim Brookway, Lewis Phillips and Phillip Doty. John and Jane Watts, above mentioned, were residents of New York city, and their daughter, Mary Watts, became the wife of Sir John Johnson.¹

The first town meeting in Florida was held on the first Tuesday in April, 1794, at the house of Ezra Murray, at which time the following officers were elected: Supervisor, David Cady; town clerk, Stephen Reynolds; assessors, George Serviss, William Phillips and David Beverly; overseers of the poor, Lawrence Shuler and Barnard Martin; commissioners of highways, David Cady, John T. Visscher and Benjamin Van Vleck; collector, Christian Serviss; constables, John Cady and Caleb P. Brown.

Succession of Supervisors.—David Cady, 1794; Stephen Reynolds, 1795-6; David Cady, 1797-1802; John Green, 1803-08; David Cady, 1809-11; John Green, 1812-15; Samuel Jackson, 1816-19; Jacob Delamatter, 1819-20; Henry P. Voorhees, 1821-22; Peter Young, 1823-24; John S. Schuyler, 1825-26; Jacob Johnson, 1827-28; Jay Cady, 1829-30; John J. Schuyler, 1831; James Greenman, 1832; Reuben Howe, 1833; James Greenman, 1834; Jay Cady, 1835-36; Samuel Newkirk, 1837; Jay Cady, 1838-39; Jacob Johnson, 1840; John French, 1841-42; Theodore R. Liddle, 1843-44; Jubel Livermore, 1845; Harmanus R. Staley, 1846; William A. Milmine, 1847-48; Adam W. Kline, 1849; Francis Newkirk, 1850-51; William H. Jackson, 1852-53; Lewis Howe, 1854; Jeremiah Snell, 1855; Lewis Howe, 1856-58; Gilbert Early, 1859; Andrew Francisco, 1860; John H. Van Vechten, 1861-63; Elias A. Brown, 1864; John Q. Johnson, 1865-66; William A. Milmine, 1867-70; John C. Putman, 1871-75; Lewis Daley, 1876-77; Cornelius Van Buren, 1878-80; Peter H. McClumpha, 1881; Calvin Whitcomb, 1882; Peter H. McClumpha, 1883; William Putman, 1884-86; Calvin Whitcomb, 1887 and February 14, 1888; A. Peck, April 24, 1888-90; Alonzo McClumpha, 1891; Robert M. Hartley, 1892.

Town Clerks.—Stephen Reynolds, 1794; Benjamin Van Vleck, 1795; John Shuler, 1796-1810; William Griffin, 1811-13; George Smith,

¹ John Watts was a leading man in his day. He was one of the founders of the Leake and Watts Orphan Asylum in New York, and a statue honoring his memory has recently been erected in Trinity church yard.

1814-18; Henry P. Voorhees, 1819-20; John J. Schuyler, 1821-22; Jacob Johnson, 1823-24; John J. Johnson, 1825-26; John G. Sweet, 1827; Jay Cady, 1828; David Johnson, 1829-30; Andrew Johnson, 1831; John McMillan, 1832-33; Elijah M. K. Glen, 1834; Andrew Johnson, 1835-37; Marvin Herrick, 1838; Jacob Johnson, 1839; Jay Cady, 1840-41; T. R. Liddle, 1842; Jonathan R. Herrick, 1843; John Denice, 1844-45; Adam C. Mead, 1846-47; Charles Dorr, 1848; William H. Witt, 1849; James Herrick, 1850-52; William A. Petten-gill, 1853; Thomas Mayner, 1854; William R. Schuyler, 1855; Thomas Mayner, 1856; Lewis Daley, 1857-59; Allen Veeder, 1860; William S. Harris, 1861; William H. De Graff, 1862-63; Lewis Daley, 1864; William H. De Graff, 1865; Jno. H. De Graff, 1866-67; W. S. Steenburg, 1868; W. H. De Graff, 1869; Nelson Vandever, 1870; William H. Hubbard, 1871-72; Charles W. McClumpha, 1873; John Devenberg, 1874; John Hubbard, 1875; John Devenburg, 1876-77; Jacob J. Johnson, 1878-79; Charles B. Broeffle, 1880-82; Alfred Peck, 1883-86; John Hubbard, 1887-88; A. S. De Graff, 1889; A. A. Rockwell, 1890-91; Albert Schuyler, 1892.

VILLAGES.

Of the villages in Florida, Port Jackson is the largest and most important. Its origin was due almost wholly to the construction of the Erie canal, as at this point a large dock was built and the place became the distributing centre for the entire region, Amsterdam being the chief beneficiary, a ferry being the mode of transit until the construction of a bridge. The first company for this purpose was chartered in 1807, the design being to build a bridge across the Mohawk between the houses then owned by Benjamin Van O'Linda in Florida and Timothy Downs in Amsterdam. The scheme however was delayed, and not until several years later was it carried into execution. On April 2, 1813, the Amsterdam Union Bridge Company was granted a charter to build a bridge between Florida and Amsterdam, the work to be done within five years. In March, 1821, the time was extended to the end of August 1, 1824, but the bridge was completed in December, 1822. In later years it was made free, but was carried away by high water Feb-

ruary 15, 1876, and then replaced with the present substantial structure. Soon after the loss of the bridge a serious accident occurred which is still painfully remembered. Attorneys Johnson I. Snell and Culver Patterson, of Port Jackson, engaged Michael Turner to row them across the river, on the night of April 24, 1876. By some misfortune their boat came in contact with the ferry rope, and all three were thrown into the water and drowned.

Port Jackson village was annexed to Amsterdam in 1888 and is therefore mentioned in the chapter relating to that city.

One of the most historic localities in the county is that upon which is built the pretty little village known for more than a century and a half by the name of *Fort Hunter*. Here stood the lower Mohawk castle, built at a now unknown date, followed by the equally famous fort from which the village takes its name, and within the enclosure of which was erected the far famed Queen Anne's Chapel, the latter itself being barricaded, garrisoned and used as a fort during the revolution. The last of these historic structures, however, was, as has been stated, removed to make a place for the improvements of a later generation. From its situation at the junction of the Schoharie with the Mohawk, the Indian village here was called by the natives I-can-de-ro-ga, but to the whites who built the fort in 1711 it was named Fort Hunter, in honor of Governor Robert Hunter, who was instrumental in locating the first settlements of the Palatines.

The Jesuits were the first missionary laborers among the Indians at the lower castle, their appearance dating farther back than the middle of the seventeenth century. They were followed, though at a much later period, by the Protestant clergymen from the vicinity of Albany, the names of some of whom we can recall. About the year 1702 Rev. Talbot performed missionary services at Fort Hunter, followed soon afterward by Thoroughgood More. Thomas Barclay, chaplain at Fort Orange, labored among the Mohawks from 1708 to about 1712, and was succeeded by William Andrews. Queen Anne's Chapel was built the same year, and was thenceforth used for worship. Mr. Andrews left the field in 1719, after which it is said no regular services were held until 1735, when Henry Barclay came and remained ten years. Like his predecessor, he too became discouraged and abandoned the field,

which was vacant for fourteen years. John Ogilvie came next (in 1749), and remained until 1764, then retiring and afterward becoming rector of Trinity parish, New York. After another vacancy Sir William Johnson made an appeal in behalf of religious instruction among the Mohawks, and John Stuart became missionary at the fort. This clergyman, however, was compelled to vacate the field in 1778. Almost as early as the arrival of the Episcopal clergy came also the ministers of the Reformed Dutch church at Albany, Godefridus Dellius (in 1703) being the first. Their services were held in log houses and barns and between them and the English clergy there existed a warm friendship. Johannes Lydius came to this field and labored with the Indians until his death in 1710. He was followed by Petrus Van Driesen, who remained until 1722. After this time the Reformed Dutch church seems to have omitted sending missionaries hither until after the close of the last French war. It is said that soon after the erection of Queen Anne's Chapel the Dutch built a log meeting house near what afterward became known as Snook's Corners, but that all traces of the building long ago disappeared.

The Methodist Episcopal society of Fort Hunter was organized in 1856, under the pastorate of Rev. Parks; earlier services of this denomination, however, were held in the school-house. The church was built in 1860, and dedicated the next year, Mr. Craig then being the pastor. The trustees at that time were John L. Voorhees, Cornelius Wemple, John W. Briggs, Spencer Voorhees, Giles Ohlen, Nicholas Newkirk, John McGraw, Nelson Reese and H. A. Dievendorf. Rev. G. W. Sisum is the present pastor of this church.

The village has also two other churches, the German Methodist and the Union, the former including in its membership a number of the German families of this part of the town, and under the pastoral care of Rev. F. W. Hoffman. The Union church has no regular pastor, although services are frequently conducted here by Rev. Jacob H. Enders.

The business interests of Fort Hunter are of some importance in consequence of its location on the canal and the West Shore railroad. Its merchants are Finlay & Cole, Brown Brothers and P. Runkle & Son, while the principal manufacturing interests are those of Dewitt A.

Dievendorf and E. Howard & Son. Spencer Billington is also an extensive dealer in hay and ships large quantities to New York. The village also has three hotels, called respectively the Ashton, Germania and Mohawk Valley House.

Minaville is situated near the centre of the town, the name having been bestowed in 1818, by George Smith, a substantial merchant, and prominent in local politics. Previous to the year mentioned the locality was called "The Street," or "Yankee Street." The village is pleasantly located on the Chuctenunda, and is a desirable place of residence. The business enterprises consist of three or four stores, the usual country shops, a cheese factory, and one or two other light industries. The public buildings are the Reformed and Methodist churches, a hotel and district school. General Brown's residence, built on the site of the village in 1811, was said at that time to be one of the most elegant in the county. Dr. Stephen Reynolds was also a prominent man in this part of the town, and was the father of Marcus T Reynolds, who became a noted lawyer of Amsterdam and afterwards of Albany.

The First Reformed Dutch church in Florida was erected on lands of Lawrence Shuler, who also was a generous contributor to it. The year of its erection is uncertain, but it is said that Thomas Romeyn of the old church at Caughnawaga preached here in 1784. In 1808 an edifice was erected by the same society at Minaville, and its organization has ever since been maintained. The congregation includes the descendants of many of the old families of this part of the town. The present pastor is Rev. R. A. Pearse.

The Methodist Episcopal church and its society at Minaville was organized about 1835, prominently connected with which were Nicholas Hill, Samuel R. Griffith, Henry Pettengill, Benjamin Herrick and Marcus P. Howland. Having its location in the centre of a fairly large Methodist population, this church is naturally strong in its membership and influence. Among its early pastors were Revs. Henry Stead, Henry L. Stark, ——— Stebbins, Joseph Conner, Ripley, ——— Warner, J. W. Dievendorf, ——— Clark, Joseph Cope and other faithful men. The present pastor is Rev. Jacob H. La Grange.

Scotch Bush, more commonly known as Powder Spring, is a small hamlet in the southeast part of the town. Its buildings are few, mainly

residences, although a post-office, store, school-house and one or two shops are in the locality. Scotch Bush, however, enjoys an important distinction in the possession of a spring of water, said to contain valuable medicinal properties that may yet come into general use.

The United Presbyterian Church of Florida is located in that part of the town which is known as Scotch Church locality. Its history dates back to the closing years of the last century, the society having been in existence as early as 1798, and including in its membership nearly all the Scotch families of the town, among whom may be named as first members John Adair, John Milmine, John McKerlie, John McKie, Alexander Murray, John Lyle, William Lander, Daniel Munson, John McGloch, John Smeallie, Alexander Keachie, Andrew Crawford, James Murray and Daniel Morrison. The first church was erected on the Derick Van Vechten farm in 1800, and the second on the same site in 1846. The church has a membership of about 140, with a Sunday-school of about eighty scholars, the latter having been organized in 1850. The name of the first pastor is unknown, but among those who have been in charge of the church are Rev. John Banks, 1802 to 1816; Pastor Donaldson, 1817 to 1820; Rev. Peter Campbell, 1823 to 1843; Rev. George M. Hall, 1849 to 1862; Rev. Robert Rogers, the present pastor, was called in 1871.

Schools.—As early as 1769 an Indian school was established at Fort Hunter, but of its history in after years there is no record. A school-house for the education of white children (a log structure) was built in the southwest part of the town in 1785, and was taught by Mr. Wright. A frame school-house was built at Belding's Corners in 1806. It is said that a part of the cost of the building was borne by the Methodists of the locality, with the understanding that they should have the use of it as a house of worship. The committee, under whose direction it was erected, comprised John Van Derveer, Daniel Herrick and John Green. Unfortunately there is no part of town history more difficult to obtain than that relating to schools and school-houses. Teachers are changed frequently, sometimes with every term, and the records made by district officers are not only indefinite, but are often lost. We learn, however, that in 1860, Florida, with a population of about 3,150 and families to the number of 512, maintained thirteen districts with one

school in each. The number of children taught during that year was 1,200. In 1891 the districts were thirteen in number; teachers employed, twelve; number of children residing in districts, 1,181; number attending the schools, 817; average daily attendance, 428; value of school-houses and sites, \$15,650; population of the town, 2,296. The general decrease noticeable in comparing these years is in part accounted for in the fact that, in 1886, Port Jackson was taken from Florida and annexed to the city of Amsterdam.

The Population of Florida.—In 1825, 2,689; 1830, 2,838; 1835, 2,896; 1840, 3,214; 1845, 3,172; 1850, 3,571; 1855, 3,154; 1860, 2,991; 1865, 2,885; 1870, 3,002; 1875, 3,063; 1880, 3,249; 1890, 2,839.

CHAPTER XXV.

TOWN OF ST. JOHNSVILLE.

THIS town, the most westerly in Montgomery, is bounded on the north by Fulton county, on the east by Palatine, on the south by the Mohawk river, and on the west by Herkimer county, East Canada creek being the dividing line. Its surface consists of broad flats in the Mohawk valley, with broken uplands gradually rising toward the north. The principal streams, all of which flow in a southerly direction and empty into the Mohawk, are East Canada, Crum, Fox, Zimmerman's, Caldwell, and Mather creeks. East Canada creek is noted for a succession of falls and rapids, descending seventy-five feet in a distance of eighty rods, this being only a mile from its mouth. The soil is a fine quality of gravelly loam, and that portion lying near the river is adapted to grain and hay, while farther north the land is well suited to grazing. Discovery has been made of three distinct mineral veins near East Canada creek, which are distinguished as the lower, middle and upper mines. The first mentioned consists largely of lead, with a trace of gold; the second is a mixture of copper, lead and zinc, but the last mentioned is mostly copper.

St. Johnsville was formed from Oppenheim, April 18, 1838, at the time Montgomery county was divided. In area it is the smallest town in the county, containing only 9,818 acres, a large portion of which formerly comprised a part of the Harrison patent of 12,000 acres, granted to Francis Harrison and others, March 18, 1722. Equalized valuation of real estate in 1891 amounted to \$1,192,748, and the personal estate was assessed at \$171,100. The town is divided into four school districts, the value of the school-houses and their sites being \$9,555. Nine teachers are employed, to whom was paid in 1891 the sum of \$3,830.25. The total number of weeks taught during the year was 154, and out of 613 children residing in the school districts, 489 attended school, with a daily average of 301. In the school library of the town are 535 volumes, valued at \$531.

The exact date of the first white settlement is not known, but it probably took place as early as 1725, and as at that date it was a part of the Stone Arabia district, its pioneers would naturally be more or less confused with those of the whole Palatine region. The first settlers were almost entirely Germans, and formed the ancestry of many of the present inhabitants. Among the families who located in different parts of the present town at that early day may be mentioned Hellebradt, Waters, Getman, Van Riegen, Walrath and Klock. It was not until 1776 that a settlement was made on the site of the village of St. Johnsville. Jacob Zimmerman located there in that year, and soon after erected the first grist-mill in the town. George Klock built another in 1801, but nearly half a century before this Christian Klock had built a church in the eastern part of the town, the date of its erection being 1756. Its members were of the Reformed Dutch connection, and Rev. Abram Rosenkrantz was their first preacher, being followed by Rev. Henry Dyslin. Henry Hayes taught a German school in the town at an early day, and the first English school was taught by Lot Ryan, an Irishman, in 1792. A tavern was kept as early as 1783, by Christopher Nellis, who added a stock of merchandise and kept store in 1801.

Many incidents of thrilling interest took place in this region during the revolution, and their recital would fill a larger volume than this, and we shall therefore only make brief mention of a few of the more important events connected with that bloody struggle. The dwelling

of Christian Klock, which stood in the eastern part of the town, was then stockaded and named "Fort House" in compliment to Christian House, the builder. The house of Jacob Zimmerman, in what is now St. Johnsville, was also stockaded. Both of these forts repeatedly repulsed attacks of the enemy and remained proof to the end of the war. Fort Hill, situated on an elevation near East creek, was also used as a place of defence during the same war. The battle between the forces of Sir John Johnson and the advance guard of General Van Rensselaer's army, under Colonel DuBois, took place at Klock's Field, near the location of Fort House, October 18, 1780. The enemy, being defeated, forded the river and retreated up the valley during the night following.

An authentic story is told of the grandfather of Peter Crouse, who was one of the early settlers. Mr. Crouse was for a time stationed at Fort Klock, and while looking one day at a body of English troops, who were at the time passing within gunshot of the fort, exclaimed jestingly that he thought he could "hit one of those fellows on horseback." Taking aim he fired at one of the officers who was seen to fall from his saddle. The horse, being left without a rider, immediately ran up to the fort and halted before Mr. Crouse who found him a very valuable prize, specially as a bundle was fastened to the saddle containing several articles of camp life, among which was an old brass kettle. These articles were kept for many years by the Crouse family as relics of the ever memorable revolution.

During the battle of Oriskany a hostile Indian had concealed himself in an excavation in the ground, from which place he had shot at and had killed a number of American soldiers. Henry Smith, a pioneer of St. Johnsville, and who took part in the battle, finally discovered the ambush of the Indian, and watching for an opportunity, shot and killed the savage, and then hastening to the spot he seized the tomahawk and buried it in the Indian's head. Taking the gun and powder horn from the savage, he carried them with him until the close of the battle, and they have been carefully preserved as trophies by his descendants.

Incidents of war often have a tinge of romance, and it was thus in the plot formed to kidnap Peggy Bellinger, who with five sisters and their father (Johannes Bellinger) lived just above Fort Hess. Philip Helmer,

a well-known tory, had been paying unusual attention to one of the girls, and had made matrimonial proposals, but the parents, who favored the cause of the colonists, strongly opposed his suit, because of his toryism. Suffering under this rejection, young Helmer openly joined the enemy and organized a small band of Indians for the purpose of kidnapping one or both of the sisters. For this purpose he led his band toward the Bellingers, but ere he had reached the house he repented his nefarious project and hurrying ahead he managed to reach Fort Hess, where he informed the people of his design. A small company of volunteers was gathered together without delay and forming an ambuscade, they would have killed or captured all of Helmer's approaching band, had it not been for the indiscretion of one of the number, who, catching a glimpse of the approaching kidnappers, cried out at the height of his voice in wild excitement: "Boys, here they are!" The Indians immediately fled, not, however, without the loss of one of their number. Whatever may be said of Helmer's character in first deserting his friends and then betraying his villainous confederates, it appears that he subsequently married the girl.

A house, occupied in recent years by Mrs. Jonas Snell, and situated not quite a mile below the village of St. Johnsville, was, during the revolution, the home of Colonel Jacob Klock. He was an active and zealous patriot and it was at his house that the Tryon county committee of safety met, June 16, 1775. In September of the same year he was appointed colonel of the second battalion of Tryon county militia, and held the position until the close of the war.

An interesting case of identification brought about by the recognition of an old horse, is related of Leonard Paneter, who was captured by the Indians when only eight years of age. He was taken to Canada where, after a year of captivity, he was exchanged and sent with others to Schenectady. The fact that he had returned soon reached the ears of his father, who sent an older son on horseback in search of him. Arriving at Schenectady the young man found several boys drawn up in line waiting to be claimed by parents and friends. The brothers did not recognize each other, but Leonard, upon seeing the horse that carried his brother, remembered it at once and thus established his identity.

Captain Christian House became prominent for his unremitting efforts in behalf of the American cause. His home at that time was near the west line of the present town, and his house was, as has been stated, converted into a fort and stockaded at his own expense and in a great measure by his own hands. For his many brave acts and faithful service during the revolution he never asked compensation, and he lived to see the close of the war and victory for the cause he championed. He died soon after, however, and his remains were buried in an old cemetery, still in existence, near the former site of Fort House.

The history of St. Johnsville since the beginning of the present century differs but little from that of the other towns in the county. Its territory was included in the Stone Arabia district until March 8, 1773; in the Palatine district until March 7, 1778; in the town of Palatine until the year 1808; and in the town of Oppenheim until 1838, when it became a distinct town of Montgomery county. During the late rebellion the town furnished its full quota of soldiers, a record of whose services will be found elsewhere in these pages.

Civil Organization and Town Officers.—A special town meeting was held at the house of Christopher Klock, about one mile east of the village of St. Johnsville, on the first day of May, 1838, at which the following officers were temporarily elected to fill the vacancies caused by the division of the county: Town clerk, Barney Becker; justices of the peace, Peter Klock, Daniel Ayers, Josiah Loomis; collector, Daniel C. Fox; assessors, Peter Radley and Simeon Klock; commissioners of highways, Joseph W. Nellis, John F. Bellinger. The number of votes polled at the meeting was 271. The first regular town meeting was also held at the house of Christopher Klock on the 5th day of March, 1839, and the following full list of town officers elected: Supervisor, John W. Riggs; town clerk, Jesse R. Curran; justice of the peace, George Lake; collector, Daniel Failing; assessors, George Chawgo, Peter Radley, Simeon Klock; commissioners of highways, Jacob H. Flander, Jonas Klock, Benjamin Groff; commissioners of common schools, Andrew R. Groot, Chauncey Nellis, Martin Walrath; overseers of the poor, John G. Klock, J. I. Klock; school inspectors, John G. Edwards, John Wilson, Joseph Hawes; constables, James Best, Christian Flander, Hiram Jennings, John P. Staring.

The supervisors of the town since its organization, with the dates of their service have been as follows: John W. Riggs, 1839; Daniel F. Nellis, 1840-41; John R. Curran, 1842; Jabez Butler, 1843-4; Joseph W. Nellis, 1845; Lewis Averill, 1846; Jacob H. Flander, 1847; Charles Kingsbury, 1848-9; Alonzo Ayres, 1850-1; Storm R. Haight, 1852; Daniel F. Nellis, 1853; William Kingsbury, 1854-55; James Bates, 1856-7; Daniel F. Nellis, 1858; Morris Klock, 1859-60; Lewis Snell, 1861-62; George Timmerman, 1863; P. F. Nellis, 1864-5; Jacob H. Markell, 1866-7; George Ellison, 1868; George Timmerman, 1869; Peter F. Nellis, 1870-74; Isaac E. Smith, 1875; Daniel J. Storm, 1876-7; DeWitt C. Cox, 1878; William Nellis, 1879; John Edwards, 1880; Martin Williams, 1881-84; Edward Bates, 1885; Martin Williams, 1886; Gordon Hough, 1887-88; John J. Reardon, 1889; Martin Williams, 1890; Charles W. Scudder, 1891-2.

Town clerks.—Jesse R. Curran, 1839-40; Andrew R. Groot, 1841-2; Chauncey Nellis, 1843; Hannibal Fox, 1844; Aaron Smith, 1845-6; Volkert Wagner, 1847; Elsha Fox, 1848-9; Lewis Snell, 1850-51; De Witt Failing, 1852; Jacob Chawgo, 1853-55; Chauncey Nellis, 1856; Peter Hellegas, 1857-8; Rufus Fox, 1859-60; Alexander Don, 1861-63; Alonzo Nellis, 1864; William Shaver, 1865; Abner H. Klock, 1866-7; Amos Klock, 1868; Harlan P. Walrath, 1869-71; Isaac E. Smith, 1872-4; Frederick F. Krombrust, 1875; A. A. Sanders, 1876; Alonzo A. Sanders, 1877; Fred F. Kingsbury, 1878-9; Chauncey Wilson, 1880-81; C. P. Lampman, 1882-3; Henry L. Sutherland, 1884-7; Frank S. Mosher, 1888-9; Elroy C. Barth, 1890-91; Ai Fox, 1892.

The present officers of the town are as follows: Supervisor, Charles W. Scudder; town clerk, Ai Fox; justices of the peace, P. A. Yoran, C. W. Lambert, Ambrose Nellis, M. Walrath, jr.; assessors, Ambrose Dillenbeck, George W. Levitt, O. H. Duesler; collector, Charles Sutherland; overseer of the poor, J. D. Burley.

The population of St. Johnsville as given by the State census since 1840 is shown in the following: 1840, 1,923; 1845, 1,616; 1850, 1,627; 1855, 1,744; 1860, 1,688; 1865, 2,153; 1870, 2,189; 1875, 2,196; 1880, 2,002; 1890, 2,081.

The Village of St. Johnsville.—This place is picturesquely situated on the north bank of the Mohawk near the mouth of Zimmerman creek,

and is consequently not far from the centre of the town east and west. The foundation of the present thriving village was laid more than a century ago, when, in 1775, David and Conrad Timmerman (or Zimmerman, as afterward spelled) located there and erected a grist-mill near the creek which still bears their name. As has been previously stated, the mill was the first of its kind erected within the present limits of the town, and in fact remained the only grist-mill in this immediate region until 1801, when George Klock built another. Three years later, 1804, David Quackenbush erected a third grist-mill, which he continued to operate until 1832, in which year its business was suspended. These mills, built during a period when distant traveling was so difficult, naturally attracted a settlement of farmers and artisans, and thus the place became a village early in the present century. In 1825, or about the time the Erie canal was completed, James Averill built a stone grist-mill, connected with which was a distillery. Twice were these buildings destroyed by fire and twice rebuilt, being operated by Mr. Averill and his successors twenty-two years, after which the grist-mill was discontinued and the distillery was continued in its stead. During the ensuing nineteen years the establishment was operated at irregular intervals by Messrs. McNeil, Nagel, D. C. Cox and Stuart. It afterwards came into possession of H. H. Healy, who conducted it for a time and then disposed of it to D. C. Cox, who converted the plant into a paper-mill, manufacturing straw board for paper boxes.

The village was for a long time known as "Timmerman's" and the present name, St. Johnsville, was unquestionably derived from St. John's Reformed church, erected in 1770 and moved to the village in 1804. The historian, Simms, states that no church of that name was ever built in or near the village, and that the only "early church" in the town was erected in 1756, by Christian Klock, nearly a mile below the site of the village. He also says that it was a Dutch Reformed church and was never called St. John's. This, however, is disproved by the church records now in possession of Rev. Furbeck. Simms states that the village was named in honor of Alexander St. John, who was a pioneer of what is now the town of Northampton, Fulton county. He was a surveyor of more than ordinary ability, and his name is frequently found in the early records of Montgomery county. On April 4, 1811,

the legislature passed an act authorizing John McIntyre, of Broadalbin, Alexander St. John, of Northampton, and Wm. Newton, of Mayfield, as commissioners "to lay out a new turnpike road from the house of Henry Gross, in Johnstown, to the house of John C. Nellis, in the town of Oppenheim," terminating in the Mohawk turnpike near the present village of St. Johnsville. Alexander St. John did the surveying and took almost entire charge of the construction of the turnpike, and his work required his presence at "Timmerman's" a great portion of the time. He thus became well and favorably known to most of the inhabitants of the place and particularly to Henry Loyd and Christian Groff, jr., merchants there, who, when a post-office was established, were successful in securing for it the name of St. Johnsville, in his honor as surveyor and commissioner. Both theories are plausible, but to that of St. John's church is given more credence.

The building of the Erie canal placed the village in water communication with the outer world and added not a little to its importance. The Utica and Schenectady railroad, built in 1836, and now known as the New York Central, also added much to its growth, especially promoting manufacturing industries. The population continued to increase slowly and in 1857 had reached 720. On the 1st day of August of that year the village was incorporated and its organization was perfected on the 20th of the same month with a full board of officers. The election was held in the Franklin House and resulted as follows: Trustees, Wm. Kingsbury, Elisha Fox, Absalom Thumb, Gordon Hough and Truman Taber; president, Storm R. Haight; clerk, Peter Heleger; assessors, Daniel Youker, Matthew F. Wilson and George Adams; collector John B. Churchill; treasurer, John B. Fisher. In 1878 the population had increased to 950; in 1888 to 1,070; and in 1892 to 1,550, a very rapid increase in four years. The present officers of the village are: President, Otis Williams; trustees, Alvin Saltsman, Reuben B. Porter, Christian Corte; clerk, E. A. Handy.

The Reformed Church of St. Johnsville is one of the oldest religious societies in the Mohawk valley, its history dating back to the middle of the eighteenth century. The present handsome brick edifice was built in 1881 upon the site of the ancient house of worship which has served the congregation since 1770. The church received the name of "St.

John's Dutch Reformed" during the latter part of the last century, and reliable records indicate that the church title suggested a name for the village. This fact has been substantiated in a great degree by Rev. P. Furbeck, who devoted a great deal of attention to the subject. The Rev. Abram Rosenkrantz, who first ministered to the Dutch Reformed church, was a historic character, as was also his successor, Rev. John Henry Dyslin. The latter was born in Burgdorf, Canton Berne, Switzerland, and was appointed by the "high German authorities of Palatine District, Canajoharie Castle," to the church July 13, 1788. The society has a membership of about 225, and Pastor Furbeck has ministered to them four years with great acceptance and success. Hence his recent resignation to accept a call to West Copake is the occasion of deep regret to the St. Johnsville people.

Grace Christian church of St. Johnsville was organized in 1874 with thirteen members and Rev. C. E. Peake as pastor, the Sunday-school having been in existence about a year previous to that date. The latter was organized by C. M. Knox. Among the pastors who have officiated at this church, mention should be made of Revs. J. D. Morrow and Charles E. Watson, also Rev. R. E. Ander, the present pastor, who began his labors here in 1892.

The Union church was erected in 1849 by Lutherans, Methodists, and a few persons of other denominations, the site having been bestowed as a free gift by Azel Hough, with the sole condition that the building should "be open and free to the use and occupation of all moral, Christian and religious denominations." The first trustees were Adam J. Klock, Azel Hough, Nicholas J. Smith, Leonard Winegar, Enoch Snell, Nelson Rockafeller, and James H. Eagan. Rev. H. L. Dix, a Lutheran clergyman, officiated at the dedication, which took place February 7, 1850. This building did good service for many years, but has not been of late years used for religious meetings, and is now occupied by a political club.

The Methodist Episcopal church, which is a handsome brick structure, was erected in 1879, prior to which time the society worshiped in the Union church building. The church is prosperous and has an active Sunday-school. Rev. George W. Wood is pastor.

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic church was built in 1889, although

services had been held for some time prior to that date. Rev. John T. Driscoll is pastor.

The Episcopal society also holds meetings in St. Johnsville, Rev. Clarence E. Ball, of Canajoharie, officiating as rector.

Masonic.—St. Johnsville Lodge, No. 611, F. and A. M., was organized in 1866, with Charles Buckingham as worshipful master, which office he held for more than ten years. The present officers of this lodge are A. Miller, W. M.; Alvin Kneiskern, S. W.; E. A. Handy, J. W.; G. T. Snell, secretary; C. Whyland, treasurer; C. M. Redfield, chaplain; S. R. Brown, S. D.; Melvin Shults, J. D.; Fox Sponable, S. M. C.; Otto Bellinger, J. M. C.; John McBride, marshal; Oliver Snell, tyler.

Press.—The *Interior New Yorker*, a weekly newspaper, was begun on July 14, 1875, by William L. Palmer, editor and publisher. At the end of six months the paper was purchased by Wheeler & Haslett, who continued it till the end of the first volume, when it was discontinued. Thomas J. Haslett, the junior member of the last named firm, soon started the *Weekly Portrait*, which was succeeded by the *St. Johnsville Times*, published by W. E. Churchill. The latter paper was afterwards consolidated with the *St. Johnsville Herald*, of which C. M. Redfield was publisher. It was then known as the *Herald-Times*, and continued until the spring of 1889.

The *St. Johnsville Leader* was established in October, 1886, by Knight & Fox, who published it until October 1, 1891, when John B. Snell purchased the plant and changed the name of the paper to the *St. Johnsville News*. It is a non-political weekly, and is published every Wednesday.

The First National Bank of St. Johnsville was organized in June, 1864, with a capital of \$50,000 and D. C. Fox as president, and A. Zimmerman, cashier. J. W. Cronkhite was elected to the presidency of the bank in 1873, in which year Mr. Zimmerman died, and D. C. Fox became cashier. He was succeeded by N. G. Dodge in 1876. The present officers are: President, Joseph Smith, of Fort Plain; vice-president, J. G. Beekman; cashier, J. H. Markell; assistant cashier, Otto W. Fox; teller, George Markell, the four last named all of St. Johnsville. Mr. Smith has held the office of president for nearly twenty years. J. M. Hubbard succeeded Mr. Dodge as cashier, and Mr. Hubbard was followed in that office by Mr. Markell.

The Board of Trade of St. Johnsville was established May 30, 1892. The officers are C. W. Scudder, president; H. L. Sutherland, vice-president, and John B. Snell, secretary and treasurer.

The village has a well managed high and primary school, with 297 scholars. S. Reed Brown is principal and superintendent.

The active manufacturing interests of St. Johnsville have contributed greatly to the growth of the village. Mention is made of the following, which constitute the more important establishments:

Roth & Englehardt, manufacturers of piano actions, established in September, 1889; employ about 125 workers.

St. Johnsville Agricultural Works, Martin Williams, proprietor, established many years ago. Manufacture thresher steam engines, cutters, and other agricultural implements, furnishing employment to about sixty men.

The Mohawk Condensed Milk Company occupy the plant recently vacated by the Empire Company and employ thirty men. The home factory is in Rochester, and the St. Johnsville branch is managed by Frank Gibbie.

C. W. Scuder manufactures fifth wheels and carriage hardware, employing twelve men. This business was established by Conover & Knox many years ago.

The Lyon Knitting Company, Reanny & Taylor, proprietors, was established in 1892 and employs twenty-five workers.

Saltsman Brothers began the manufacture of carriages and sleighs when St. Johnsville was a mere hamlet. They now employ twelve men.

Bunce & Benedict, manufacturers of the bijou piano, established themselves in St. Johnsville three years ago. Their plant is elaborately equipped and employment is given to twenty-five men.

D. C. Cox manufactures paper and straw board, employing eight to ten men.

Hartley Folmsbee conducts an iron foundry and makes general castings, employing twelve men.

J. H. Kneeskern & Sons manufacture sash and blinds, employing five men.

James H. Healy manufactures cigars, employing ten men.



M J E Brower

CHAPTER XXVI.

TOWN OF PALATINE.

PALATINE lies north of the Mohawk, and directly east of St. Johnsville. On the north it is bounded by Fulton county and on the east by Mohawk. The surface of the town is mostly an upland, 200 to 500 feet above the valley, broken by deep narrow ravines, and descending irregularly toward the river. Garoga creek, a beautiful mill stream, which rises in the lake of the same name, flows in a southwesterly direction through the western part of the town and empties in the Mohawk at Palatine Church. Mill creek, a tributary of Garoga; the Kanagara, emptying into the Mohawk a short distance below Sprakers; and Flat creek, a small stream emptying into the Mohawk west of Palatine Bridge, are the other principal water courses of the town. The soil consists in a great measure of dark clayey loam, containing more or less gravel, and is highly fertile when properly cultivated. It is specially adapted to grazing, and in the manufacture of cheese Palatine has surpassed, in quantity at least, every other town in the county.

Among the five districts into which Tryon county was divided in 1772 was that known as "Stone Arabia District." It was designated as being entirely on the north side of the Mohawk, bounded easterly by the west bounds of the Mohawk district, which was a line running north and south crossing Anthony's Nose; and westerly by a north and south line crossing the river at Little Falls. Its northern boundary was the wilderness. On the 8th of March, 1773, the name was changed to "Palatine District." It will thus be seen that it comprised a vast area, including parts of the present counties of Montgomery, Fulton and Herkimer. This same area was formed into the town of Palatine, March 7, 1788, and was therefore one of the first towns organized in the county, ante-dating Johnstown, Amsterdam, Mayfield and Broadalbin five years. Of the several towns that have since been formed from old Palatine, that of Salisbury, Herkimer county, was the first to be set off,

which was done in 1797. Stratford (now in Fulton county) was set off in 1805, and in 1808, the town of Oppenheim, embracing what is now St. Johnsville. In 1827 Palatine was again reduced by the formation of Ephratah, but a portion of the latter was re-annexed upon the division of the county, in 1838. These various reductions of territory have brought Palatine down to its present area, 22,212 acres. The territory of Palatine originally comprised three historic land grants, the first being the Van Slyck patent, said to contain 2,000 acres, granted by King George I. to Harman Van Slyck, September 1, 1716. It lay along the north bank of the Mohawk extending west from the Nose, and a mile or more above Palatine Bridge, also including the "Frey Place." When this land was surveyed by Nicholas Schuyler, in September, 1723, and laid out in sixteen lots, it was found to contain 6,000 instead of 2,000 acres. Eight of these lots were conveyed to Colonel Abraham De Peyster, July 9, 1728. Van Slyck settled on a portion of the land and resided there for many years.

Next was the Harrison patent, containing 12,000 acres, and including nearly all of what is now St. Johnsville. It was purchased from the Indians, in the king's name, March 8, 1722, by Francis Harrison, Lewis Morris, jr., John Spratt, John Schuyler, Abraham Wendell and John Hascall.

Third was the Stone Arabia patent, containing 12,700 acres, and embracing land east of the Harrison and north of the Van Slyck patent. It was granted to John Christian Garlock, Elias Garlock, Andreas and Christian Feink, William Coppernoll, Jacob, John Jost and Joahnnes Schmele, Heinrick Frey and eighteen others, October 19, 1723.

Within the present limits of Palatine was made the first permanent settlement north of the Mohawk, in Montgomery county, and probably the first west of Schenectady. Hendrick (or Heinrich) Frey was the name of the intrepid pioneer who located his home so far in the western wilderness. He was a native of Zurich, Switzerland, and came to New York in 1689. Prior to 1700 he journeyed up the Mohawk and erected a log dwelling a short distance west of what is now Palatine Bridge, and continued to live there on friendly terms with the Indians. His early log house remained intact until 1739 when it was replaced by a stone dwelling which is said to have been prepared for defence in the

early Canadian wars. Simms speaks of the old stone house as still "standing in good condition" in 1882, and it is no doubt the oldest house in the county. Frey is said to have laid claim to about 300 acres of land surrounding his house, the title to which was made permanent by Harman Van Slyck, who became the patentee in 1716.

This venturesome pioneer was unfortunately drowned in the river while watering his horses, but his age or what time the calamity occurred is unknown. He left one son, a namesake, who died in Schenectady at the age of about forty, leaving three sons, Henry, John and Bernard, and three daughters, Elizabeth, Catherine and Maria. The daughters married Henry Deihl, John Loucks and Christopher P. Yates, the marriage of the latter to Maria taking place December 11, 1775. Henry inherited his father's property consisting of 3,200 acres in Freysbush; 300 acres at the Palatine homestead and a Canajoharie mill site with 800 adjacent acres. Of this rich estate he gave his brothers the homestead, and to each of his brothers-in-law a farm of 100 acres. He was a colonel of militia prior to the revolution, and it is said he held the rank of colonel under Sir William Johnson in the French war. Espousing the cause of the crown at the beginning of the war, he was arrested, imprisoned and finally freed on parole, although taking no active part in the hostilities. His estate was not confiscated. He married Elizabeth, a daughter of John Yost (Joseph) Herkimer, a sister of General Nicholas Herkimer, and had one son and one daughter. Further details regarding his descendants, as well as those of his brothers, can be found in Samuel L. Frey's published record of the family.

Major John Frey, the next younger brother to Colonel Henry, took sides with the colonists, being a pronounced whig and an earnest patriot throughout the revolution. Although very young at the time, it is claimed he was a participant in one of the French wars. He was a prominent member of the celebrated Tryon county Committee of Safety, a brigade major at Oriskany, and was wounded and taken prisoner on that historic battle ground and carried to Canada. He lived to achieve further prominence, both in social and public life, and married Gertrude Shoemaker, a niece of General Herkimer, who was at that time a widow of Lieutenant Matthew Warmuth. Major Frey died in 1833, at an ad-

vanced age, in the Frey mansion erected by his only son, Henry I. Frey.

Bernard Frey, the youngest of the three brothers, together with Philip R., his nephew, joined the tories and went to Canada, being no doubt led by the powerful influence of Colonel Henry. Upon their arrival in Canada, Bernard received a captain's commission in the cruel and notorious regiment known as Butler's Rangers, while his nephew served at the siege of Fort Stanwix. Captain Bernard, who had sold his interest in the Palatine homestead when the war began, remained in Canada, where he married and continued to entertain hostility against the American government, but in the war of 1812, during the cannonading across the St. Lawrence, he fell by a ball from the American side. Thus tragically ended the life of a man, who, had he emulated the example of his brother John, and exerted his military genius in the cause of the struggling colonists, might have left an honorable name in American history.

In 1712 occurred the first exodus of the Palatines, who had been brought to this country under the protection of Queen Anne, from their settlements on the Hudson to the Schoharie country. Probably (for there are no records) in the following summer some of these Palatines ventured farther west along the Mohawk, and, indeed, it is safe to assume that a few families may at that time have located in what is now the town of Palatine.

Elias Garlock, who subsequently became one of the proprietors of the Stone Arabia patents, is said to have come from Schoharie, together with a few of his neighbors, and settled in the present town in 1717. The greatest increase in this portion of the Mohawk valley was made in 1723, when nearly 100 families are said to have come hither. It was in that year that the Stone Arabia patent was granted, and as it contained 12,700 acres and though but twenty-seven patentees are named in the grant, it is very probable that many settlers obtained a share. John Christian Garlock, whose name heads the list of grantees, was the founder of one of the Schoharie settlements, known as Garlock's dorf. He located in the neighborhood of Stone Arabia, and among others who shared this patent, but whose names have not been heretofore mentioned were John Lawyer, Warren Digart, Bartholemew Rickard, Jo-

hannes Crouse, Johannes Ensign, William Vokrs, Marden Seibart, Johannes Ingolt, Marden Dillenbeck, Adam Ensign, Theobold Garlock, Sufferinus Digart, Hans Deterick Cassalman, Simon Erchart, William Nelles, Andries Peiper, Lodwick Cassalman and Gerhart Schaffer.

A map of Stone Arabia, made from a very early survey, contains the names of thirty-one proprietors. To make the reader familiar with the pioneers' names of Palatine, mention should be made of those not included in the above list of patentees. Thus we find Johannes Keyser, Andreas Finck, jr., Nicholas Diskard, Adam and Christian Empie, Wilhelmus Kasselmann, Dierick Loucks, Johannes Mynders, William Brower, Karell Eberhart, Warner Teygart, Johannes Miller, Jacob Sybers, George Houss, Better Soetts (Suits), Johs. Schuthey, Tilleman Van Soherlyand (Sutherland), Hendrick Six, Nicholas Stensell.

Among the names of the early settlers of this town is that of Peter Wagner, who probably came hither from Schoharie about 1722. He located about one mile south of Palatine Church, where his son, Peter, junior, lived when the revolution began. He became a lieutenant-colonel of the Second battalion of Tryon county militia, and participated in the battle of Oriskany. His house, which was fortified during the war, was known as Fort Wagner. The late Peter J. Wagner, of Fort Plain, who was born in 1795, was a grandson of the colonel. George Wagner, a son of Colonel Peter, and grandfather of the late Webster Wagner, of palace car memory, also participated in the same famous battle.

Webster Wagner.—Among the names of the prominent self-made men of this county, none is more familiar than that of our subject. He was of German extraction, and a descendant of one of the pioneer families that located in Palatine early in the last century. He was born near Palatine Bridge, October 2, 1817, and was named after Dr. John Webster, the family physician. His limited advantages permitted nothing more than a common school education. In his youth he was apprenticed to his older brother, James, to learn the wagon-maker's trade, and becoming a skilled workman, was taken by him into partnership. This enterprise however did not win success. The brothers worked diligently at their trade, but could not overcome the adverse influence of the prevailing hard times. Had the shop been a success Webster

Wagner would never have reached wealth and fame, both of which were preceded by ruin. At the age of thirty he was still at the foot of fortune's ladder, having lost his patrimony and several years of labor; but with health, hope and courage, he was not the man to surrender, even though in the midst of strenuous, painful conflict. Moreover, his wife, true helpmeet, equally hopeful and energetic, loyally seconded his patient perseverance and shared the reward. From the unsuccessful venture in the mechanic's shop, Mr. Wagner turned his attention to the line of railroad travel and traffic. The only resource at the time was the railroad ticket office at a very small salary, with the privilege of living up-stairs. Mr. Wagner proved highly efficient in his new sphere, to which he added other duties, and drew corresponding increase of pay, being soon promoted to station master.

It was during these years of humble position, but none the less diligent attention to details of duty, that he turned his power of close and practical observation to good account. The benches on the caboose on which the railroad employees slept while off duty, and the fatigue of the drowzers, who were obliged to ride either night or day, suggested the sleeping car—or to him—car of triumph, destined to bear him on to speedy fortune. The idea lay germinant but dominant in his brain for many years. In time it was wrought into tangible shape, and the result was the business man's convenience and comfort—the Wagner sleeping car.

Gaining the co-operation of neighboring capital, four of these cars were built, which began running on the New York Central railroad in 1858. As soon as the sleeping car proved an assured success, he turned his attention to the drawing-room car, and in 1867 introduced the first car of this description to the traveling public. These cars became very popular, are in use upon nearly all of the principal railways of the country, and have brought to their inventor world-wide fame. His inventive genius was both persistent and practical. The oval-shaped car roof of that day, and the consequent lack of ventilation led to the much improved elevated panel, for which he took out a patent. This he sold (reserving his own right to use) to the New York Central company, and then felt that his road to success was clear. He was at that time past forty, and schooled as he had been by the stern discipline of

poverty, he was ready to greet with eager zeal the beckoning possibilities of the future. Coincident with this stage of his history, there appeared also an executive ability which surprised all who knew him. This enabled him to meet all the exigencies of a business which was destined in a few years to reach unimagined proportions. From Palatine, his office was removed to Albany, and thence to New York, where, in intimate connection with the headquarters and the controlling influence of a powerful corporation, Mr. Wagner's name and influence, business worth and excellence, were fully appreciated to the very last. There his loss is regarded as well-nigh irreparable. The value of such qualities, such integrity and fidelity, commands public recognition. Promotion comes according to the Scripture, "Seest thou a man diligent in his business, he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men."

In 1870 he was elected to the assembly of his native state by a majority of 200. In the following year he was named to represent the then Fifteenth Senatorial district, and was elected by 3,222 majority. The term ending he was returned to the senate without opposition and in 1875 was re-elected by a majority of 2,623 over Mr. Samuel T. Benedict, of Schenectady. In 1877, '79 and 1881, he was also re-elected by the customary majorities. He was also a delegate to the Chicago convention in 1880 and was one of the seventeen New York delegates who opposed General Grant's third term aspirations, and was instrumental in securing the nomination of General Garfield.

A few months previous to his death, a friend and comrade in official life visited him in his fondly cherished Palatine home. In their stroll about the grounds, they stood beside the graves of loved ones who had gone before. Pointing to the spot he had chosen for his own resting-place, and placing his hand upon his friend's shoulder, Mr. Wagner said: "I am ready to go at any time." Had not that a prophetic sound? No one thought, however, that his departure could be so near at hand, nor indeed could any one have imagined when that family plot was newly arranged, and the majestic and beautiful shaft was in its place, that the first precious dead over which the monumental shadow would fall would be that of husband and father. Thus, however, had it been ordained, and so rests in hope the toiler with his life

work done. After making so many happy, he "rests from his labors, and his works follow him."

The shocking accident by which Mr. Wagner lost his life occurred on the eve of Friday, January 13, 1882, near the Spuyten Duyvil creek on the Hudson River Railroad.

Of the domestic life of Senator Wagner, we may add without intruding upon the privacy of family affairs, that Mrs. Wagner was a daughter of John P. Davis, and a sister of William H. Davis, of Palatine. She survived the senator only five years, and her death renewed that profound grief expressed for her husband. But those five years were not spent in vain. As a memorial of this estimable lady, words form but a minor part, but she unconsciously left a monument and proof of her pious beneficence and philanthropy in the spacious parlors she caused to be erected for St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, of Canajoharie. In one of these parlors the memorials of the dead senator are the furnishings, among them being the memorial tablet presented to the bereaved family by the legislature of the state of New York, and the desk and chair he used in the senate chambers. In the auditorium of this church the following tablet has been erected:

IN MEMORY OF

JOHN WEBSTER WAGNER.

Trustee of this church for thirty-two years,
A member for more than twenty years,
Always warmly attached to its services,
and mindful of its interests,

died

January 13, 1882.

This tablet is erected by his friends.
The memory of the just is blessed.

No more fitting tribute could be paid to the memory of this honored man than the following from the officers of the company he had so long been associated with, and of which he was the president.

At a meeting of the board of directors of New York Central Sleeping-Car Company, held the 14th day of January, 1882, the following was adopted:

An all-wise providence has permitted a sudden and terrible accident, which has caused the death of our president, Webster Wagner. He possessed in large measure the qualities which secure success, and retained the honor and respect of the world. An active and influential participant in business and public affairs, he never made an enemy nor lost a friend. He originated a plan to supply a deficiency in the system of transportation, and by his ability, energy and effort, it has become one of the great enterprises of the country. Always respecting the rights of others, and tenacious of his own, he so lived as to possess the love and confidence of all who knew him. The people among whom he was born and lived with unexampled unanimity made and kept him their representative in the senate of the state, and those who were associated with him in business, trusted entirely to his management and control. From a humble beginning, and by unaided effort, he accumulated a fortune, and attained distinguished positions, and he leaves an unsullied record of the intelligent and conscientious discharge of every public and private duty. His money and influence were liberally used for deserving measures and men, and his charities were as broad and unobtrusive as his character was modest and virtuous. His loss is great to the state, and to the varied interests with which he was connected, almost irreparable.

Directors, officers and employees are in common grief, not for the president, but for our friend.

We extend to his bereaved family our profoundest sympathy and condolence.

It is directed that this minute be entered upon the record and a copy engrossed and transmitted to his family.

(Signed)

WILLIAM H. VANDERBILT,
Secretary, pro tem.

Of the five children of Senator Wagner, Emma C. is the wife of James D. Taylor, of Palatine Bridge; Anna, widow of George W. Van-Vleck, of Canajoharie; Annetta, wife of Albro E. Haines, of New York; Clara, wife of George W. Stetson, of New York. Norman L. Wagner, the only son, died in 1887.

A contemporary emigrant with Peter Wagner, was William Fox, who located only a short distance from the Palatine Church. Among his descendants, several of whom did gallant service in the revolution, were Captain William Fox, jr., Christopher P. Fox and Christopher W. Fox. They were in command of the First, Second and Third companies of the Second (Palatine) battalion at the battle of Oriskany, in which Christopher P. was slain.

Another early and prominent name in the annals of Palatine was that of Isaac Paris. Tradition says that he came from Strasburgh and settled at Stone Arabia many years prior to the revolution. Being a man of superior intelligence and integrity, he became well known among

the inhabitants of that day, and several years before the war began, was actively engaged in trade. He was a member of the Tryon county Committee of Safety, was a delegate to the State Provincial Congress, and a member of the first State Senate of New York. His name is also found among the early records of the Reformed Dutch church of Stone Arabia, of which he was an influential member. Together with his oldest son, Peter (then aged 18), he took part in the bloody battle of Oriskany, which proved a fatal encounter for both father and son. The latter was killed in the action, while the former was taken prisoner and afterwards murdered by the bloodthirsty savages. A younger son, Isaac, jr., has been elsewhere mentioned as the first merchant of Fort Plain, and a man of remarkable generosity. The old Paris house, which stood about a mile west of Stone Arabia, was burned by the tories October 19, 1780.

Palatine furnishes us with the name of another man who achieved fame by his intellect, and also notoriety by an unfortunate and tragic duel. This was George I. Eacker. His great-grandfather, Jacob Eaker, is supposed to have been the first of the family to locate in Palatine, coming hither from Schoharie in 1723, and raising, it is said, a family of twenty one children. The eldest son was George, who married Eliza, a daughter of George Snell. This son Jacob, who is remembered as a judge of the county, married Margaret, a daughter of Andrew Fink. The result of this union was two sons, George I. and Jacob I., and also four daughters.

George I. Eacker, who received his preparatory schooling at Schenectady, subsequently studied law with Brockholst Livingston in New York, and was admitted to the bar at the age of twenty-one. Opening a law office, his marked ability, affable manner, and ready knowledge of the legal code drew around him a circle of friends and admirers. He was soon appointed master in chancery, and in 1801 was selected to deliver the Fourth of July oration in the young metropolis. This oration, which was marked by eloquence and patriotism, created a sensation in New York, and Eacker won laurels of praise from many to whom his ability was previously unknown. There were those, however, who were envious of the "Mohawk Dutchman" (as they contemptuously called him), and the success of his oration kindled their envy into hate.

Among this number was Philip Hamilton, a son of Alexander Hamilton, and a graduate of Columbia College, who openly insulted Eacker in the box of a theatre, when the latter was in company of his affianced bride. The affront was at first unnoticed by Eacker, but persistent repetitions called forth a rebuke from him, which was followed by a challenge from Hamilton and then from a friend named Price who was with him. Four shots were fired between Eacker and Price without effect, Sunday, November 22, 1801. Eacker and Hamilton met the following day at 3 P. M., and the latter fell mortally wounded upon the first fire, but lived until the following morning. Facts prove that Eacker was really driven into the unfortunate affair, and his subsequent pleasant relations with Alexander Hamilton indicate that he was not blamed by the father of his adversary.

Palatine contains two very ancient churches, the Reformed Church of Stone Arabia being the oldest religious society on the north side of the Mohawk west of Schenectady. It is not known at what date the society was first organized, as there was a congregation of this denomination at Schoharie soon after the settlement of the Palatine Germans in that place, probably as early as 1712. Rev. John Jacob Ehle was the pastor, and it is not unlikely that he attended the religious meetings of such members of his church as had moved a few years later to Stone Arabia. Among those early settlers were also a number of Lutherans, who took steps towards securing a glebe for church purposes. William Coppernoll then signed an agreement to convey a lot of fifty acres to Andreas Fink and three others, on or before April 9, 1731, binding himself in the sum of £100, "good and lawful money of New York," to keep the obligation. The instrument was not executed, however, until May 9, 1732, when Coppernoll conveyed a fifty-two acre lot to Andreas Fink, Werner Digert, Johannes Schnell and others for a consideration of £20. On this lot both the Reformed and Lutheran churches were located, a rude house of worship being constructed of logs, which for a time was used by both denominations. In 1744 the glebe was divided and two separate churches were erected by these societies. Among the active members of the Reformed congregation at that time were Jacob Schnell, Laverinus Deigert, Peter Suits, William Broner, Johannes Krems, Dirk Loux, Hendrick Loux, Harris Schnell,

William Coppernoll, Andreas Fink, Nicholas Horning and Peter Deigart. The early ministers at Schoharie officiated at Stone Arabia for many years. Among them were Rev. Ehle, Abram Rosenkrantz, John Daniel Gros, Dietrich Christian, A. Peck, Isaac Labaugh and John Jacob Wack, the latter remaining with the society from 1804 until 1828. His salary was \$400 per year, paid jointly by the Reformed Church of Stone Arabia and that of Canajoharie, both churches contributing an equal share, and both receiving an equal proportion of his time. He was required to preach two sermons in German, then one in English, followed by two more in German and then one in Low Dutch. It will thus be seen that he was indeed a remarkable clergyman for those primitive times. Among his successors may be mentioned Revs. Isaac Kitchum, B. B. Westail, Charles Jukes, John C. Van Liew, Manning Bogardis, Philip Furbeck, G. M. Blodgett, L. H. Van Dyke, J. M. Compton and W. B. Van Benschoten. The log church was burned October 19, 1780, and was replaced after the revolution by a wooden structure. This gave way to a stone church in 1788, which cost \$3,378. It was built by Philip Schuyler, and was considered one of the best churches of that day in the Mohawk valley. The society was incorporated May 23, 1791, as "The Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Stone Arabia." Among the prominent members of this church who have from time to time served the society in official capacities, mention may be made of John Zielly, Jacob Eacker, Arnout Veeder, Johannes Koch, Frederick Getman, Adam Loucks, Casper Cook, Michael Ehle, and coming down three-quarters of a century will be remembered Conrad P. Snell, Henry Gramps, John Kitts, Reuben Graff, Harrison Brown, Erwin Vosburg, C. K. Loucks, Johannes Hees, and Aurora Failing.

The history of the Lutheran church of Stone Arabia properly begins at the time of the division of the fifty-two acre glebe, which took place March 27, 1744. Among the trustees of this society at that time, whose names are found on the quit-claim deed to the church lot, were Martines Dillenbeck, John Keiser, Harris Empie, John Schuls, Jacob Schuls, Stovel (Christopher) Schuls, Lutrick Kaselman, Nicholas Stemfelf, Andreas Besiner and William Nellis. In 1770 this land was conveyed to Christian Dillenback and Johannes Shults in trust. There was then standing upon it a Lutheran house of worship, which ten years later,

October 19, 1780, was burned together with the Calvinist church and the dwellings of the village. It is probable that the Reformed congregation and the Lutherans both occupied a temporary structure for a number of years following the fire. The latter did not erect a church until 1792, when that interesting and substantial structure was built which has withstood the hand of time for a century. The early records of the church are not complete and it is not known when the church organization was perfected or the first meetings were held. Rev. William Christian Buckmeyer, a Lutheran minister stationed at Loonenburg on the Hudson, was first to officiate at this church. Rev. Peter Nicholas Sommer, a native of Hamburg, Germany, and the earliest regular preacher among the Lutherans at Schoharie, also visited Stone Arabia. Rev. Frederick Ries, from Germantown, became the minister in December, 1751. During the decade from 1763 to 1773 the church was in charge of Rev. Theophilus England who, according to statements made in the correspondence of Sir William Johnson, desired to take orders in the Church of England, probably with the intention of bringing his congregation under the control of the Episcopal church. No other attempt, however, was ever made to accomplish such a change. Among the pastors following Mr. England were Frederick Reis, Philip Jacob Grotz and Peter Wilhelm Domier, all of whom preached in German, keeping the church records in the same language. The first minister who preached in English was Rev. John D. Lawyer, who came in 1827 and remained three years. Mention may be made of a few of his successors, and in this connection we recall the names of Rev. Charles A. Smith, Henry I. Smith, Martin J. Stover, Adolphus Rumpff, Rev. Curtis, Nicholas Wert and W. W. Gulick.

The Palatine Evangelical Lutheran church, more familiarly known as "Palatine Church," is located in the midst of a picturesque village which bears the same name and is the oldest church now standing within the limits of Montgomery and Fulton counties. It is a well preserved stone structure, built in August, 1770, with the proceeds raised by subscription to a paper, upon which the following names are found: Peter Waggoner, Andrew Reber, William Nellis, jr., Andrew Nellis, Johannes Nellis, Henry Nellis, Christian Nellis, David Nellis, and Johannes Hess, contributing in the aggregate, the sum of £620 or about \$3,000. Over

the entrance, which was on the north side, was the German inscription, "Erbanet im Yahr Christi, 1770, Den 18 ten Aug." The church was remodeled in 1868, upon the 18th of June of which year it was rededicated, Rev. G. A. Lintner, of Schoharie, who had preached his first sermon in the old church, officiated upon this occasion. The centennial celebration of the ancient house of worship was celebrated Tuesday, August 18, 1870, with due honor and reverence, the late Governor Seymour delivering an eloquent and fitting address. The church has always been supplied with pastors from the Lutheran church at Stone Arabia.

Salem church of the Evangelical Association of America, afterward called "the German church," was not incorporated under the first mentioned title until February 12, 1877, although the first services of this society, whose faith in many respects resembles that of the Methodist Episcopal church, were held in Palatine as early as 1835. For a number of years these meetings were held in a school house near the present church, and were conducted by Revs. Lane, Fisher and Rothschild. Later the ball-room of Andreas Dillenbeck's hotel was used, and in 1839 a union church was erected. This was replaced in 1871 by a new structure in which services have usually been held on alternate Sabbaths. The early services were conducted entirely in German, but of late years this custom has been abandoned.

Passing over the battles of Stone Arabia in which the illustrious Col. John Brown was killed, October 19, 1780, mention of which has been made in an earlier chapter, and also the military events that occurred at Forts Paris and Keyser (the two principal places of defence in Palatine during the revolution), we shall now turn to the past and present civil organization of the town.

The records covering the period of its formation and down to 1804, and from 1805 to 1827 are missing, enough only remaining to indicate that Jacob Eacker was supervisor and Peter C. Fox town clerk for the year 1803. At the town meeting held on the 3d of April, 1804, officers were elected as follows: Supervisor, Peter Gramps, jr.; town clerk, Peter C. Fox; assessors, John J. Nellis, Jost Spraker, Peter N. Smith, Henry Buckman and Martinus N. Nestle; commissioners of highways, John Eisenlord, Rudolph Dygert and Michael W. Bauder; overseers of

the poor, Joseph Wagner and Joseph G. Klock ; constables, Peter J. Nellis, Jonas Reis, John J. Failing, Samuel Frame, John Fralick and Samuel Bliss.

The present equalized valuation of Palatine real and personal estate is \$2,596,557, upon which taxes to the amount of \$11,682 were levied in 1891. The town is divided into eleven school districts, having a population of 831 children of school age, 557 of whom were attending school during the year. The total average daily attendance was 299. Fifteen teachers are employed, whose salaries aggregate \$5,674.75 per annum. The school libraries contain 1,434 volumes, the total value of which is \$1,171. The school sites and houses in the town are valued at \$19,555.

The supervisors of Palatine since 1827 have been as follows : Christopher C. Fox, 1827 ; Martinus Dillenbeck, 1828-29 ; Charles Waggoner, 1830 ; Joshua Reed, 1831-32 ; George Waggoner, 1833 ; David Zielley, 1834 ; George Waggoner, 1835 ; Henry A. Loucks, 1836 ; Peter G. Loucks, 1837 ; Jacob G. Snell, 1838-39 ; Martinus I. Dillenback, 1840 ; Jacob S. Snell, 1841 ; Joseph England, 1842-43 ; Martinus Dillenback, 1844-45 ; Joseph Spraker, 1846-47 ; Charles Walrath, 1848 ; Joseph England, 1849 ; Livingston Spraker, 1850-51 ; John K. Gramps, 1852 ; Archibald Gray, 1853 ; George Wagner, 1854 ; Joshua Veeder, 1855 ; Azariah Saltsman, 1856 ; Joseph Spraker, 1857 ; John A. Failing, 1858 ; Joseph Spraker, 1859 ; John W. Saltsman, 1860 ; Jeremiah Strayer, 1861-62 ; Joshua Veeder, 1863-64 ; Reuben Lipe, 1865-69 ; Azariah Saltsman, 1870-73 ; David S. Patten, 1874-75 ; Elias J. Ellithorp, 1876-77 ; Jacob C. Cook, 1878-79 ; Jacob Snell, 1880 ; Jacob C. Nellis, 1881-82 ; Azariah Saltsman, 1883-84 ; Daniel G. Van Wie, 1885-87 ; John M. Lipe, 1888-89 ; William N. Johnson, 1890-92.

The town clerks during a corresponding period have been : Aaron Veeder, 1827 ; George I. Zielley, 1828-29 ; Joshua Reed, 1830 ; Jesse Loucks, 1831 ; Archibald Sternberg, 1832 ; Jost W. Snell, 1833-34 ; Joseph England, 1835-36 ; Jacob P. Snell, 1837 ; Bernard Getman, 1838 ; Jacob Shaver, 1839 ; Joseph England, 1840 ; Josiah I. Shultz, 1841 ; Joshua Empie, 1842 ; Andrew A. Dillenback, 1843 ; James Bauder, 1844 ; John C. Kilts, 1845 ; William Baker, 1846 ; Conrad Kilts,

1847-48; Alexander Snell, 1849; Azariah Saltsman, 1850-51; Josiah Lasher, 1852; Jeremiah Strayer, 1853-54; James H. Dygert, 1855; S. Ludlow Frey, 1856; Josiah Sitterly, 1857; Jeremiah Strayer, 1858-59; Josiah Sitterly, 1860; Jacob J. Vosburgh, 1861-62; James Bauder, 1863; Jacob C. Cook, 1864; James Bauder, 1865-66; David Dillenback, 1867-68; Jacob Snell, 1869; James Bauder, 1870; Hermon Brown, 1871-72; Edward I. Nellis, 1873-74; Clark Kilts, 1875-76; Clark Nellis, 1877-78; Jacob Snell, 1879; John L. Vosburgh, 1880-81; Albert E. Newman, 1882-83; Charles F. Meyer, 1884; Aaron England, 1885-86; William Murray, 1887; John Coppernoll, 1888-89; David Dillenback, 1890-91; Ed J. Seeber, 1892.

The present town officers include the following: Supervisor, William N. Johnston; town clerk, Ed J. Seeber; justices of the peace, Casper Getman, Elias J. Ellithorp, James W. Nellis, Aaron England; assessors, Daniel G. Van Wie, Chauncey Wagner, Frasier Nellis; collector, Lorenzo P. Smith; overseer of the poor, Dwight E. Floyd.

The following figures will show the population of the town of Palatine during the years named: 1825, 4,072; 1830, 2,745; 1835, 2,876; 1840, 2,823; 1845, 2,695; 1850, 2,856; 1855, 2,525; 1860, 2,605; 1865, 2,561; 1870, 2,814; 1875, 2,706; 1880, 2,786; 1890, 2,871.

CHAPTER XXVII.

TOWN OF ROOT.

ROOT is the central town on the south of the Mohawk. It is bounded on the east by Glen and Charleston; on the south by Schoharie county, and on the west by Canajoharie. The surface of this town presents a variety of natural features surpassing in extent and grandeur any other portion of the county, in fact it is doubtful if any other equal area in the Mohawk valley contains so many interesting works of nature. The geologist and the naturalist here find subjects for thought and discussion, while the admirer of beautiful scenery is charmed with the prospect from the heights in the northern and central

portions of the town. The majestic hills that rise abruptly from the Mohawk to a height of 630 feet (surveyed by Capt. Thomas Machin),¹ from the northern crest of an undulating upland, the soil of which varies from a dark colored loam and clay bottom (near the eastern border), to a gravelly loam in the centre, and more or less clay and light soil in the western portion of the town. A fine quality of building stone crops out on some of the summits, but owing to the steep hills and heavy grades these quarries have seldom been worked. An abundance of black slate is found near the centre of the town. Agriculture is the principal interest, and although hay is the chief crop, oats, barley, corn and buckwheat are raised in abundance. In the vicinity of Currytown hops are grown with much success. The adaptability of the soil to grazing was recognized by the farmers at an early day, and thus we find extensive dairies and cheese factories scattered throughout the town. The manufacture of cheese has not, however, of late been carried on to the former extent, as the high prices paid for good hay offer greater advantage to the agriculturist.

The two principal streams in Root are Yatesville and Flat creeks. The former enters the town on its eastern border from Charleston and flows in a northerly direction, emptying into the Mohawk at Randall, formerly Yatesville. This stream was called by the Indians "Wasontha," as is shown by a land grant dated 1727. A beautiful cascade is to be seen about one mile north of Rural Grove, where this stream falls twenty or twenty-five feet, affording a scene of picturesque attraction. A grist-mill was erected at this point at a very early day by a man named Vrooman the place being for many years known as Vrooman's Falls. The mill was carried away by high water in 1813. Flat creek, which takes its name from the shallowness of a portion of its stream, rises in the extreme southern part of the town and flows in an irregular northerly direction, making a circuitous detour into Canajoharie, and emptying into the Mohawk at Sprakers. A large portion of the course of this stream is composed of natural features differing from those to which

¹ Captain Machin was in service during the revolution, and was employed by Washington to make the chain which was stretched across the Hudson at West Point. Some links of this immense chain are still preserved, and it is surprising that such an immense work in iron could have been done in that rude condition of mechanics. This chain kept the British vessels from ascending the river to attack Albany. Captain Machin is also mentioned in our history of Charleston, where he passed his last days.

it owes its name. For a number of miles it flows through an inclining stratum of gravel and slate, its banks forming steep and rugged ravines, and at a point one mile above Sprakers, there is a fall of sixty-five feet. At several places along its course prospecting parties have successfully brought to the surface mineral ore containing fifty per cent. of lead, and fifteen of silver, as shown by the assay of the state geologist, and this led to the formation of the Canajoharie Mining Company.

Facing the river on the northern border of Root, about two miles east of Sprakers is a bold promontory which is mentioned in connection with a similar spur on the opposite side of the Mohawk, as "The Noses." These abrupt and lofty hills were frequently used to mark boundaries in the early divisions of Tryon county.

Another striking natural feature within the limits of the town is Mitchell's cave, which is located in a margin of the woods on "Nose Hill," about one and one-half miles from Sprakers. The entrance is quite small, scarcely large enough to admit a man of heavy stature, and the passage to the first landing, sloping northward, is made with difficulty by the aid of a rope firmly attached to trees. The interior of the cave consists of several rooms or separate caverns, connected by passageways, the farthest one yet explored apparently being about four hundred feet from the entrance. Martin Carson explored the cave in 1837 and his description of it is highly interesting. He says the passage from the second to the third room is the most dangerous, leading along a shelving rock, the surface of which is wet and slippery, and bordering which was a narrow and perpendicular chasm, so deep that stones cast into it sent back echoes from a seemingly incalculable depth. The Carson party went as far as the thirteenth room, which was the largest of all, being possibly forty feet wide and twenty-five feet in height. The dome of this room was studded with beautiful stalactites of various shapes and sizes. Subsequent explorers speak of the fourth room as being large, and having in its ceiling or dome, a huge rock, which seems to be on the verge of falling. The sound of rushing water can be plainly heard in some parts of the cave, and in the lower room, several hundred feet below the surface, there is a pool of water, the depth of which is not known. The great danger attached to a survey of this wonderful work of nature has prevented a more extended exploration of its depths by naturalists and men of science.

Root was formed from Canajoharie and Charleston, January 27, 1823, and named in honor of Erastus Root, of Delaware county, a noted political leader of that time. Its area, which consists of 30,463½ acres, is greater than that of any other town in the county. This territory embraces parts of nine different land grants, the earliest of which was known as the Burnet patent. It consisted of 775 acres, including the present site of Randall village, and was granted to William Burnet, jr., February 24, 1726. The Provost patent of 8,000, lying next west of the above, was granted to Provost, Cocus, Van Wyck and others, March 8, 1726. The Livingston patent of 775 acres, extending southeast from the river in the northeastern corner of the town, was granted to Robert Livingston, jr., March 10, 1726. The Roseboom patent of 1,500 acres, included the hill known as "Anthony's Nose," and extended southeast within a mile of the site of Currytown. It was granted to Johannes Roseboom, April 29, 1726. Archibald Kennedy received a patent for 775 acres of land, lying between the Livingston land and the Ten Eyck patent, the latter in the present town of Glen. It included what is known as Stone Ridge, and was granted April 18, 1727. Ten years later, June 17, 1737, Timothy Bagley and C. Williams received a patent of 4,000 acres in the south part of the town, extending into the southeastern part of Canajoharie. The next grant, which was the largest of all, was Corry's patent of 25,400 acres, embracing parts of the present towns of Charleston, Glen and Root, and granted to William Corry, George Clarke and others, November 19, 1737. Winne's patent of 4,000 acres, adjoining Roseboom on the south and west, and including the site of Flat Creek village, was granted to Peter Winne and others, October 6, 1741. John Daniel Gros, an early preacher, received a title to the Gros patent, which embraced parts of the towns of Root and Canajoharie, March 30, 1786.

First White Settlement.—The first permanent white settler in Root, of which there is any authentic record, was Jacob Dievendorf, who located on the present site of Currytown. He came some time prior to the revolution, and with him were Rudolph Keller, David and Frederick Lewis, and Jacob Tanner, but the precise location of the early abodes of these latter named pioneers is not definitely known. Most of them were pre-eminently fitted for the aggressive work necessary for

the establishment of homes in a wilderness, being descendants of a hardy German race, accustomed to toil and privation. Their powers of endurance, however, were taxed less in their efforts to clear the land of its native growth, than in protecting their primitive homes and the lives of their families from the bloody incursions of the savage and the tory. The most disastrous of these raids took place on July 9, 1781, under the lead of the tory, Doxtader. When the alarm was given the settlers hastened to a picketed block-house near the dwelling of Henry Lewis, closely pursued by the enemy. The savage horde set fire to every house in the village, except one, but what might have been an extensive loss was prevented by the timely arrival of Colonel Willett's forces, who were in time to extinguish some of the fires. Frederick, son of Jacob Dievendorf, was scalped, as was also his brother, Jacob, jr., and the latter was taken prisoner. Both fortunately recovered and returned after the retreat of the Indians. Jacob, jr., lived to acquire wealth and influence in the community, being at the time of his death one of the largest land owners in Montgomery county. He died at his residence in Currytown, October 8, 1854, at the advanced age of eighty-four years.

During the above mentioned raid, Mary Miller, a little girl, was scalped and found alive, but soon after died from the effects of her injuries. Authentic record has been made of the miraculous escapes of a number of others who participated in that memorable struggle. One of these was the eldest son of Rudolph Keller, who lived too far from the fort to reach it in safety, and hence hurried with his family to a dense woods, where they escaped injury. They were compelled to witness the destruction of their home with its contents. Peter Bellinger, who came into the town subsequent to the arrival of the Dievendorfs, was plowing in a field when the raiders appeared, and loosening his horse from the plow, he mounted and fled in safety toward the Mohawk. A party of savages who started in pursuit of him captured Jacob Moyer and his father who were hiding in the woods, and scalped and killed them both. How much like fiction these tales sound in the ears of the modern reader, and yet scarcely more than a hundred years have elapsed since the homes of those struggling pioneers were laid in ashes, and the wives, mothers, and children perished in the fiendish Indian warfare.

Among other early settlers in Root were the Sprakers, Van Everas, Hubbses, Lykers, Snows and Downings, who are mentioned in another part of our history.

The town records of Root have been well preserved since the date of organization, and this good condition is undoubtedly due to the fact that the office of town clerk has frequently been held by one incumbent for several consecutive years. In reviewing the names of town clerks we find the remarkable fact that three prominent men of Root, who, during their younger days occupied that office, afterwards achieved political and social prominence, and were elected to the assembly. These were John Bowdish, Freeman P. Moulton, and the present assemblyman from this district, George J. Gove, of Rural Grove. Mr. Bowdish was elected to the assembly in 1841, and Mr. Moulton in 1863. Among the supervisors we also find Gamaliel Bowdish, who was elected assemblyman in 1847.

The first town meeting and election of officers was held shortly after the organization of the town in January, 1823. The following list comprises the names of supervisors from that date to the present time. David C. Hubbs, 1823-26; Henry Lycker, 1827-28; David C. Hubbs, 1829; Henry I. Dievendorf, 1830; George Spraker, 1831-33; John Burns, jr., 1834-35; Jacob Vosburgh, 1836-37; William C. Hubbs, 1838-39; Simeon Snow, 1840-41; John L. Bevins, 1842-43; Robert Yates, 1844-45; Charles Hubbs, 1846-48; Frederick J. Starin, 1849-50; Abram W. Gardinier, 1851; John Bowdish, 1852-53; Charles Hubbs, 1854; James W. Lyker, 1855-56; George I. E. Lasher, 1857-58; Gamaliel Bowdish, 1859-60; David Quackenbush, 1861-63; William B. Dievendorf, 1864; Ira J. Carr, 1865-66; Samuel Morrell, jr., 1867; Charles Hubbs, 1868-72; Freeman P. Moulton, 1873-76; Miles Yates, 1877-78; Robert C. Failing, 1879; Jacob D. Snow, 1880-81; Washington Downing, 1882-83; George J. Gove, 1884-85; Jacob Dievendorf, 1886-88; George J. Gove, 1889-91; A. A. Lyker, 1892.

The town clerks during the corresponding period have been as follows: Cornelius C. Hubbard, 1823-25; Joshua Young, 1826-29; John Bowdish, 1830-40; Thomas W. Bingham, 1841; Charles Hubbs, 1842-43; Josiah Lasher, 1844-47; Henry Burns, 1848-49; Hiram Burns, 1850; Elias Yates, 1851; Barnabas Vrooman, 1852-53; Isaac Folms-

bee, 1854-56; Henry Van Buren, 1857-58; John Braugham, 1859-60; Aurelian Mallett, 1861-63; George J. Gove, 1864-65; Henry Mallett, 1866-67; Reuben Dievendorff, 1868-70; Herbert A. Quackenbush, 1871-72; Edwin Folmsbee, 1873; John W. Gordon, 1874-75; Reuben Dievendorff, 1876; Peter A. Smith, 1877-78; Silas W. Cohen, 1879; Martin Van Buren, 1880-81; J. Bowdish Gove, 1882; James Folmsbee, jr., 1883; Malachi B. Spencer, 1884-85; Hibbard Burns, 1886-92.

The present town officers include the following: Supervisor, A. A. Lyker; town clerk, Hibbard Burns; justices of the peace, Herbert W. Riggs, David V. Dunn, J. Bowdish Gove, and Frank R. Bradt; assessors, George A. Dillenback, Menzo Gardinier, and Henry Runkle; collector, Albert C. Shults; overseer of the poor, James S. Allen.

The relative importance of any town is always better illustrated by a reference to the number of its inhabitants, and the following figures will show the population of Root, which has varied in a striking manner. In 1825, 2,806; 1830, 2,750; 1835, 2,918; 1840, 2,979; 1845, 2,804; 1850, 2,736; 1855, 2,748; 1860, 2,622; 1865, 2,456; 1870, 2,492; 1875, 2,290; 1880, 2,275; 1890, 2,041.

Schools, Past and Present.—The educational advantages of Root, and in fact, of the whole county, so far as the public schools are concerned, during the period of its first white settlement, were in rather a formative condition which in these days would be very unsatisfactory. The first schools in Root were composed of German scholars and German masters, this tongue being used exclusively, but as settlers from New England and the British Isles entered the community both the language and modes of teaching were gradually changed and improved. A pedagogue named Glaycher taught an English school near the Noses, in 1784, and it is probable that private schools existed in various parts of the town after the beginning of the present century. Some of the well-to-do farmers who manifested a marked desire for learning were sent to the academy at Johnstown, and finished education at eastern colleges. The district school system was in operation at the time Root was formed. Its territory is now divided into fourteen districts, in which there is a population of 603 children of school age. Of this number 465 attend school, with a daily average of 210. Thirteen teachers

are employed, whose salaries aggregated \$3,688.21 during the year 1891. The school libraries contain 449 volumes, the total value of which is \$152. The sites and school buildings of the town are valued at \$9,325.

VILLAGES.

Rural Grove.—The largest and most important village and centre of trade in town is situated on Yatesville creek, about five miles south of the Mohawk. The record of its settlement dates back to the year 1828, when Abram H. Vanderveer formed a partnership with Henry Stowits, erected a dwelling and subsequently a large tannery on the site of the residence of the late John Bowdish. Stowits gave the name of Unionville to the cluster of houses which soon surrounded the tannery, but later on this name was exchanged for the less euphonious title of Leatherville. Isaac B. Walker built an inn in 1828, and conducted it for several years, and it was afterward kept by Henry Van Buren. A store was erected by William A. Covenhoven, and on the 2d day of June, 1829, John Bowdish and Isaac S. Frost began the mercantile business. This same building was afterwards occupied by Mr. Bowdish when in partnership with George J. Gove.

The post-office was removed to this place from Currytown in 1832, to which was given the town name, Root. John Bowdish received the first appointment as postmaster, and held the office for half a century, a remarkable example of postal service and an evidence of great integrity.

The village is not essentially a manufacturing place, but aside from the usual mercantile trade carried on in a place of several hundred inhabitants, it supports a grist-mill and cheese factory. The present name of Rural Grove was adopted by the post-office department in 1872, although several residents had used the name in dating their correspondence as early as 1850. It was suggested by a beautiful grove of elms on the west border of the village.

The Methodist church of Rural Grove was built in 1845, but a society of this denomination existed in the community long prior to that date. Among the early preachers were Revs. Starks and Emerson, and after the erection of the house of worship the pulpit was supplied for a time

by Rev. Mosher of Canajoharie. A second church edifice was erected in 1860 three miles distant, which together with the Argusville society was for many years connected with the Rural Grove charge. Among the pastors who have officiated at this church since 1870 will be remembered Reverends Elam Marsh, Le Grand Jones, George C. Simmons, Milton Tator, Charles A. S. Heath, and the last pastor, Rev. J. G. Perkins.

The Christian church of Rural Grove, which was organized in March, 1854, included among its first members Elias Yates, Thomas J. Vanderveer, Jacob I. Vanderveer, Henry C. Hamilton, John Dopp, and Henry Shibley, all of whom served as trustees. The church was erected during the summer of 1854 and was dedicated on the 8th of November, Rev. Obadiah E. Morrell officiating. The first regular pastor was Rev. John Ross, who, with assistants, filled the pulpit until December 28, 1865, when the society was reorganized upon the accession of seventy-seven members from the church at Charleston Four Corners. After reorganization the pulpit was first filled by Rev. A. A. Lason, who was succeeded by Rev. J. C. Burgdurf, during whose pastorate, in 1874, the building was enlarged and improved at an expense of about \$800. The rededication took place June 11. Among the pastors who have served the church since the departure of Mr. Burgdurf may be mentioned Revs. Moore, Fenton, E. D. Hammond, Hayner, Humphrey, McGlauffin and the present minister, Rev. C. C. Thorn, who came in April, 1892.

Sprakers is a small village located on the Mohawk at the mouth of Flat creek. It is also a station on the West Shore railroad and a supply point for boats on the Erie canal. The land on which the village stands was acquired by George Spraker from his father, Jost Spraker, who was one of the Mohawk valley pioneers. George built a tavern here which was kept both by himself and by succeeding landlords for many years until finally destroyed by fire. Daniel Spraker built a store in 1822 and until the canal was completed was engaged in the transfer of freight between the unfinished sections. When the line of the canal was changed he moved his store to its bank and after a successful business career of twenty-eight years was succeeded by the present proprietor, David Quackenbush.

Joseph Spencer began business on the bank of the canal shortly after its completion, and built up a large and lucrative trade. He subsequently retired, and John L. Bevins purchased the business. Upon the enlargement of the canal he erected a substantial stone building, and after a few years the store came into the possession of the Cohens, and is now conducted by Silas W. Cohen, a member of the same family. The stone store is remarkably well preserved, and from all appearances will accommodate a large trade for many years to come.

George Spraker was the first postmaster at this point, holding the office for a number of years. Among his successors have been David Quackenbush, Henry Cohen, Mrs. Hannah Cohen, and the present incumbent, Silas W. Cohen. David Quackenbush also held the office a second time during the Cleveland administration.

The Reformed Church of Sprakers was built in 1858, on land given by George Spraker. A very old church had existed at this point prior to that time, a part of which was used in the construction of a store now standing on the south side of the canal lock. The society was for many years connected with the Reformed Church of Stone Arabia. Among the pastors officiating at Sprakers since 1858 have been Revs. E. Vine Wales, Nanning Bogardus, D. K. Van Dorn, J. A. Compton, John Miner, and the present pastor, John A. Thomas, who came July 1, 1887. The church has an active Sunday-school, of which O. C. Van Evera is superintendent.

The Spraker's Basin cheese factory, established some twelve years ago, is operated by Lorenzo Edgerton.

Currytown is the oldest village in Root, and was settled some time prior to the revolution by Jacob Dievendorf. A store was established at this place at a very early day by John McKernan, in a building on the corner opposite the residence of the late Dr. Snow. McKernan afterwards retired, and in 1820 built a bridge across the Mohawk at Randall, but the structure was carried away by the first high water. It was at Currytown that the first post-office in Root was established, the mail being brought by a post rider. The postmaster was Daniel Cuck, who was an early settler. His successor was Walter Conkling, and after him the office was held by John Bowdish, during whose tenure it was removed to Rural Grove. Currytown was then without a post-office for

a long period, but another has recently been established there, and Reuben Dievendorf is postmaster. There is no mercantile business transacted in the village now, but the substantial farm houses and buildings and well cultivated fields all give evidence of prosperity.

The Reformed Church of Currytown is the oldest religious organization in Root, having organized in or about 1790, and erected a house of worship as early as 1809. Probably the first pastor to officiate regularly for the society was Rev. Peter Van Buren, who was there in 1806 and preached at private houses. The old church was remodeled and greatly improved in 1849, and the original spire replaced by a new one. Thus enlarged and repaired, the old structure served the congregation until 1883, when the present beautiful edifice was erected at a cost of about \$7,500. The pastors who have officiated at this church during the past fifteen years include Rev. E. G. Ackerman, who came in 1878; James M. Compton, from 1879 until September 1, 1882; John Miner, in 1883, and the present pastor, Rev. H. H. Sangree, who came in March, 1888. The church has seventy-three communicating members, and a Sunday-school of fifty scholars, Reuben Dievendorf being superintendent.

Randall is the name of a post-office and village on the Mohawk and Erie canal, near the mouth of Yatesville creek. It was originally called Yatesville, but when the post-office was established, in 1863, the name of Randall was suggested and adopted by the first postmaster, Louis Lounsbery. Mr. Lounsbery held the office until the Cleveland administration in 1885, when he was succeeded by Washington Downing. The office is now held by Louis Lounsbery, a son of the first postmaster. The railway station at this point is called Downing. A Christian Church society was organized at Randall about the middle of the present century, and meetings were held in the school house for many years, the society being connected with that of Rural Grove, and receiving the services of the ministers at the latter place. The present church was built in 1885 through the earnest efforts of some of the prominent residents, among whom were Peter Van Evera and family. The dedication took place December 10, 1885, Rev. Mr. Hayner officiating. The pastors since Mr. Hayner's departure have been Revs. Humphrey, McGlaufflin, Sweet, Marvin, and the present minister, Rev.

W. H. Shaw, who came in 1891. The church has about seventy members. In 1820 a bridge was built across the river at this point, but being constructed too low was soon swept away.

Flat Creek is situated on the creek from which it takes its name, about four miles south of the Mohawk. A large amount of business formerly centered at this place, and Hibbard & Wessels who kept an early store there had an extensive trade. John Burns, jr., also engaged in business at this place for a number of years. There were two hotels at one time, but there is only one now, the Hotel Wessels, conducted by Mrs. Mary E. Wessels.

The Baptist church at Flat Creek was built in 1860 and regular meetings were held for fifteen or 16 years, but recently the Reformed pastors from Currytown have officiated in this pulpit, the Baptist society having disbanded. The True Dutch Reformed church at Flat Creek was built in 1885 and is supplied once a month with ministers from New Jersey. Isaac Folmsbee was postmaster at this place for many years, being succeeded in August, 1885, by Hibbard Burns, who still holds the office.

The Flat Creek cheese factory was built in 1865 by John I. Brown and two years latter was purchased by a company having a capital of \$3,100. William A. Dievendorff was president. It is now operated by Samuel Hilton who took charge about ten years since. Lorenzo Folmsbee also conducts a steam saw and feed mill at this point.

Brown's Hollow, in the southern part of the town; *Bundy's Corners*, and *Lyker's Corners* are hamlets consisting of a few houses each. At the first named place Henry Lyker erected a grist-mill at an early day, the property subsequently coming into the possession of John Brown, who increased the water power by tunneling a thousand feet through the hill. The mill was burned many years ago and rebuilt by Mr. Brown, but of recent years has only done a small business. A distillery, saw mill, linseed oil mill, carding machine and fulling mill were also in operation in Brown's Hollow in former times, but have passed away and the place can hardly expect their return.

CHAPTER XXVII.

TOWN OF CHARLESTON.

THIS is the only town in Montgomery county that does not border upon the Mohawk river. It is bounded on the north by Glen; on the east by Schoharie creek, which also serves as a dividing line from Florida; on the south by Schoharie county, and on the west by Root. Its surface is composed chiefly of high plateau immediately west of Schoharie creek, the greater part of which is undulating uplands. Abrupt and narrow valleys or ravines with small streams also form a marked feature of the topography of the town. In the eastern part bluffs from 50 to 100 feet in height are found bordering on Schoharie creek. The principal stream within its limits is Mill brook, which flows in an easterly direction, emptying into the Schoharie two miles north of Burtonville. The soil is loam generally intermixed with clay, and is adapted to spring grain and grazing.

Charleston is a very old town, and its territory has been at different times much reduced by the formation of other towns. Mention has frequently been made in this volume of the five districts into which Tryon county was divided in 1772. Of these that part of the Mohawk district which comprises the region south of the river and extending from the easterly bounds of the county west to a north and south line crossing the river at Anthony's Nose, was in 1788 organized as the town of Mohawk. Thus it continued for five years, when on March 12, 1693, its territory was divided, that east of the Schoharie being formed into the town of Florida; and that west of the stream into the town of Charleston. Thus the old town of Mohawk went out of existence, but the name was appropriately selected for the new town created in 1837 from a part of Johnstown. It will thus be seen that Charleston, when first organized, bordered upon the Mohawk, but with the increase of population, and the inconvenience of travel to town meetings, a division was made necessary, and in 1823 Glen and a part of Root were taken

off, leaving Charleston with about 25,432 acres, which is its present area. The early land grants in Charleston comprise part of the following: Bagley's patent, 25,400 acres, granted to Timothy Bagley and twelve others, November 19, 1737; Corry's patent, 25,400 acres, granted to William Corry, George Clarke and others, November 19, 1737; and the Stone Heap patent, 15,500 acres, granted to Daniel Claus, John Bowen, and fifteen others, September 15, 1770.

The last named patent derived its singular name from a large pile of stones, known as the "Stone Heap," situated on the road leading north from Oak Ridge, a hamlet in the southern part of the town. This pile of stones attracts attention from the legendary tales that hover about it and which have been handed down from the time of Indian occupancy. Probably the oldest of these traditions is that long prior to the revolution a white man was killed upon the spot, and that since that time every passing Indian was compelled to cast a stone upon it. Although the fact is well substantiated that each Indian passing the spot, and there were many, for this was the old Indian trail leading through the Schoharie Valley from the Susquehanna to the Mohawk county, complied with the above requirement. Less credence is given to this tradition than to one which simply accounts for the pile of stone as the result of a custom of the Indians, when visiting a stream or spring to throw a twig or stone in a conspicuous place, indicating to other travelers that a friend had passed. One writer, speaking of the stone heap, says: "Somewhere between Schoharie creek and Caughnawaga commenced an Indian road or foot-path, which led to Schoharie. Near this road has been seen, from time immemorial, a large pile of stone, which has given the name 'Stone Heap patent,' to the tract on which it occurs, as may be seen from ancient deeds." In 1753 Rev. Gideon Hawley made a tour of the adjacent country, and wrote as follows concerning their strange memorial. "We came to a resting place and breathed our horses, and slaked our thirst at the stream, when we perceived our Indian looking for a stone, which, having found, he cast to a heap which for ages had been accumulating by passengers, like him who was our guide. We inquired why he observed that rite. He answered that his father practiced it and enjoined it on him. But he did not like to talk on the subject." Mr. Hawley continued, "this cus-

tom or rite is an acknowledgment of an invisible being. We may style him the unknown God whom this people worship. This heap is his altar. The stone that is collected is the oblation of the traveler, which, if offered with a good mind, may be as acceptable as a consecrated animal. But perhaps these heaps of stones may be erected to a local deity, which most probably is the case." Ruttenber, speaking on the same subject, is inclined to doubt the statement that the stones formed any part of a rite of worship and says, "the stone heaps were always by the side of a trail or regularly traveled path, and usually at or near a stream of water."

Many of Charleston's early settlers, some of whom came prior to the revolution, were undoubtedly attracted to the locality by the availability of Schoharie creek as a source of mill power, and at an early day along the banks of this stream were erected numerous grist and saw-mills. Among the pioneers who first located within the town were Thomas Machin, who was interested in one of the land patents; Captain John Stanton, Robert Winchell, Adin Bromley, Henry Mayes, David Kimball, Nathan Kimball, Ezekiel Tracy, Nathan Tracy, Abner Throop, John Eddy, and Abiah Beaman. After the revolution the immigration was more rapid and included many thrifty New Englanders, some of the descendants of whom are yet residents of Montgomery county. Among these later settlers were Judah Burton, Abram Davis, John Butler, Charles Earing, Benjamin Beard, John Reimer, John Brand, John Hamilton, Isaac Conover, Peter Fero, Edward Montanye, Henry Shibley, John Schuyler, Garret I. Lansing, Alexander Hubbs, George Teeple, John Cochley, John Hoag, Elijah Herrick, Abram Guile, Ephraim Burtch, William Jamison, Joshua Tubbs, Christian Overbaugh, Sylvanus Willoughby, James Sutphen, Benjamin H. Kneeland, Elias Cady, Francis Hoag, Nathaniel Bowdish, Ira H. Corbin, James Jermain, Henry G. Haley, David Hamilton, James and Peleg Pettys, Cornelius Wiser, Sergeant Heath, Daniel Bryant, Clark Randall, Thomas Leak, Michael Winter, Jacob Weed, Jacob Smith, Ethan Eaton, Stephen Borden, Ezra Gordon, Richard Davis, Moses Pierson, Richard Clute, William Fero, and John Onderkirk.

These early pioneers found a country covered with a hardy growth of timber, and traversed by few and laborious trails. Many of the first

comers, particularly those who came from adjoining counties, left their families behind for a time, until they could clear sufficient land to build a log dwelling and sow the first crop. They generally went back to their old home during the intervening winters. Those who reached the town prior to the revolution witnessed many of the bloody scenes enacted by the tories and Indians, who scoured the country along the Indian trail leading north from Schoharie. On one of these occasions the British and Indians were pursued by a party of American militia. The former, when in the neighborhood of what is now Oak Ridge, constructed a barricade of their baggage wagons, behind which they attempted to repulse the Americans. Their resistance was not of long duration, however, and setting fire to the barricade they soon made a rapid retreat.

A history of Charleston would be incomplete without reference to the lamentable state of affairs in which a portion of the inhabitants in the central, northern and western part of the town have been at times involved. These were the tenants of the Clark lands. George Clark, lieutenant-governor of the colony of New York in 1737, at the time the Corry patent of more than 25,000 acres was granted, became secretly interested in this tract, which was surveyed and laid out and a division made between the owners. Clark then returned to England, leaving his sons, George, and Edward, in New York, to whom he bequeathed the property. Upon the death of Edward, who survived his brother, these lands came by inheritance to his oldest son, George Hyde Clark, who taking sides with the colonists during the revolution, was protected in his title, although it had originally been granted by the crown. After the war he succeeded in leasing the property to settlers, by what was known as a "three life" lease, the usual rental being one shilling per acre. The tenants built houses and barns, cleared away timber, and received the customary rights of ownership. In this manner the Clark lands passed from father to son for several years, the inheritor always bearing the name of George Clark. The last owner to the Clark land, instead of adhering to the custom of his ancestors in charging a nominal rental, pursued a different course, and when a lease expired the rent was immediately raised, sometimes as high as \$2 and \$3 per acre. So incensed were the tenants by this injustice, that when they vacated a

farm, which was in many instances eviction for non payment of rent, they burned the houses and barns they had built. In this manner began that period of devastation which so seriously shocked the surrounding community. For years this unfortunate condition existed, and now along almost every highway in that unfortunate district can be seen the ruins of former homes, while much of the land is in a wild uncultivated state. An effort was made at one time to dispossess Clark by legal process, on the plea that the lands were obtained under a title from the British government, but Judge Cady, before whom the case was tried, decided that the title was established by possession, and the action was barred by the statute of limitations. Since then, however, the failure of the landlord threw these lands into the market, and the old tenure being canceled, a better condition prevails in this once demoralized region.

VILLAGES.

Burtonville is situated on the Schoharie in the southeast corner of the town. Judah Burton, who located on a tract including the site of the village, just after the close of the revolution, was the pioneer of the vicinity, and in 1785 he erected the first saw-mill and grist-mill in the town. It was built by Felix Holt, and stood about a half mile below the present Burtonville mill. It was carried away by high water in 1814 and never rebuilt. Another mill was built that year, however, by Jonathan, Ebenezer and Abram Mudge, and was operated until 1850. Judah Burton, a son of the first settler, then built a mill which has since been operated by a number of firms, among which were Burton, Smith Colyer, Charles M. Sitterly, and J. W. and N. H. Meriness.

A carding machine and fulling-mill was in operation at this point as early as 1810, having been erected by Joseph Blanchard. Woolen goods have also been quite extensively manufactured in Burtonville, the first enterprise of the kind being started by A. G. Randall in 1844. A tannery and nail factory may also be included among the early industries of the place.

The settlement was at first known as Mudge Hollow, a name derived from Captain Abram Mudge, who opened the first hotel early in the present century. When the post-office was established a few years

later the name of Eaton's Corners was chosen, but in 1837 it was changed to Burtonville in honor of Judah Burton. The postmasters have included the following persons: Ebenezer Knibbslee, 1825 to 1828; David Eaton, 1828-31; Isaac Brownell, Judah Burton, Stephen Hoag, David M. Scott, J. D. Bowman, J. Rockwell, and Dewitt C. Chase, who was first appointed April 18, 1861. Mr. Chase is the present incumbent.

Burtonville contains two churches, the Methodist Episcopal, organized in 1857, and the Christian church organized in December, 1865.

The first bridge across Schoharie creek in this town was erected at Burtonville in 1790. It was built of wood and remained until 1814. It was replaced by another bridge in 1820 which did service until 1841, when it was carried away by high water. An iron bridge was erected in 1843, which, in 1869, was also partially carried away, but subsequently repaired and made serviceable.

Charleston Four Corners is a small village in the eastern part of the town. Business was first transacted at this point about 1810, in which year Philip Young erected a hotel there. The first merchant was Isaac Frost, who was also the first postmaster, receiving his appointment March 5, 1828. With the exception of one year, 1832, in which Jesse N. Eaton had the office, Mr. Frost held the office during a period of forty-four years. Among his successors have been Judson McDuffee, Horace E. Simmons, and the present incumbent, Ellsworth McDuffee.

The Christian church at this place was first organized as an Association of Free Will Baptists in 1813, and James Wilson as the first pastor. Elder John Ross, who came to the society in 1822, remained with them fifty years, resigning in the fall of 1872, since which time various pastors have filled the pulpit.

Charleston village, or Rider's Corners, is situated in the northern part of the town near the centre. The place was settled shortly after the revolution and has at different times contained a hotel, one or two stores, a blacksmith shop and tannery. The post-office at this place was the first established in the town, Levi Pettibone having been appointed postmaster there October 1, 1807. Among his successors will be remembered such familiar names as John Guernsey, Adam Smith, Moses Nash, Benjamin Sheldon, Peter S. Wyckoff, William Carlisle, Henry H. Belding, Darius J. Hewitt, Thompson Burton, Will-

iam H. Biggam, Elisha H. Brumley, Daniel W. Schuyler, Charles W. Van Dusen and Cornelius D. Hall.

The First Baptist Church at Rider's Corners is the oldest in the town, dating its organization as far back as 1793. The first pastor of this society was Rev. Elijah Herrick, who was succeeded by his son Calvin.

The first school in Charleston was built in 1800 although it is probable that instruction, however imperfect, had been maintained prior to that date. Among the first teachers in the town was Andrew Biggam. At present the town is divided into ten districts, in which there is a population of 306 school children, 262 of whom attend school. Ten teachers are employed at a total expense of \$2,000 per annum. The school sites and buildings are valued at \$5,435.

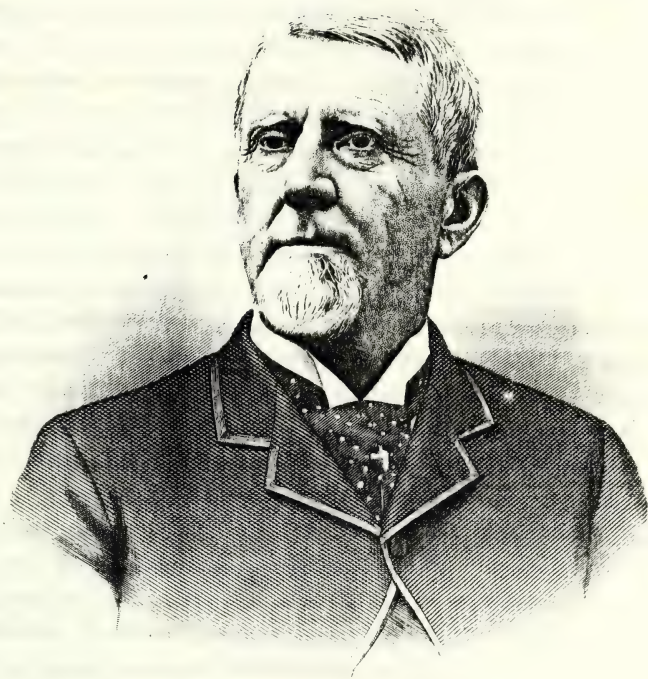
The population of the town since 1825 is here given: 1825, 2,102; 1830, 2,148; 1835, 2,124; 1840, 2,103; 1845, 1,995; 1850, 2,216; 1855, 1,899; 1860, 1,837; 1865, 1,687; 1870, 1,601; 1875, 1,399; 1880, 1,334; 1890, 1,174. John P. Hall is the present supervisor, and Ellsworth McDuffee, town clerk.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

STARIN, JOHN H.—From the earliest years of the history of the Mohawk valley the name of Starin has been conspicuous in its records. Nicholas Starin was one of the pioneers, and immigrated hither in the year 1720. The original family consisted of eight persons, and included Nicholas and Catherine, his wife, and their children, named Frederick, Valentine, Adam, Tunis, Joseph and Catherine. Their first settlement was near the present village of Fonda, but soon afterwards several of the sons removed to German Flats, near the residence of General Herkimer, under whom they fought at Oriskany.

John Starin, grandson of Nicholas, was born in 1750 near the present site of Fultonville, and was old enough when the French and Indian war began to share its perils. The revolution found him ready to en-



Yours

Geo. A. Warren

list in the service of his country, which he did, as also did Nicholas, Jacob, George, Henry, Valentine, Philip, John and Adam Starin, nine in number. During the whole of the great struggle this family showed the greatest devotion to the patriotic cause. When peace was declared the Starins all became active members of the community, and some of them were called to important service. On the organization of Herkimer county in 1791, Henry Starin was appointed first judge. John Starin, another of the nine, soon after the close of hostilities, opened a store and an inn on the south bank of the Mohawk, the spot being near the present bridge. Myndert Starin, son of John, was born in 1787, in what is now the village of Fultonville. In his youth he served as mail-carrier, making a horseback route to and from Johnstown, and as the Circuit Court was often held at his father's public house, he early became acquainted with the business of the day. He was a man of intelligence and decision, and had a strong love of country. Hence, when the draft was made for the war of 1812, though he was then suffering illness, he waived his privilege of exemption and stood by the result of the draft. He was at this time a captain in the infantry, and when the war closed he opened business successfully in Johnstown; but three years afterward (1819) he made Sammonsville the scene of his operation. There he built mills, an ashery, hotel, distillery, etc. In 1822, associated with the late Thomas Robinson, he purchased a large tract, including the present site of Fultonville, and their plans embraced twelve different forms of industry. Among these were saw-mills, grist-mills, making paper, spinning wool and dressing cloth, to which were to be added a nail factory, a distillery and an ashery. The Erie canal was then in process of construction, and the plans of Starin & Robinson included the establishment of a dry dock and boat yard. Myndert Starin married, March 22, 1816, Rachel Sammons, daughter of Thomas Sammons, who won distinction in the revolution, and was a member of congress. Myndert Starin died in 1845, being then in his fifty-eighth year, and leaving eight children to the care of the widow. She was a Christian woman of strong character, and impressed upon her children lessons worthy of such a character. Mrs. Starin died September 6, 1855.

John H. Starin, son of Myndert and Rachel Starin, was born August 27, 1825. His early days were passed in Fultonville, and after attend-

ing district school he had a brief course at Esperance. He also attended the Kingsboro Academy, then a prominent educational institution. In 1842, being then seventeen, he began the study of medicine in Albany, but soon afterward returned to Fultonville as clerk in the drug store of his brother, Delancey. When the firm of Starin & Freeman was formed he took charge of the drug department, which he soon afterward (1847) purchased, and henceforth conducted the business in his own name. He was made postmaster, and this, with a successful drug trade, may for a time have satisfied his ambition.

New York, however, soon attracted him by its vast facilities, and in 1856, being then thirty-one, he conveyed his business to the metropolis, but still retained his original residence. On establishing himself in New York his industry and energy reached what was then considered a very satisfactory success, and he was invited to a partnership in a first class house, which he declined. A new field was even then opening before him, and one that was more congenial to an administrative mind. This was the freighting business. He had frequently been of service to railway managers to a degree which indicated his peculiar abilities, and this led to a closer connection. He had won the confidence of the chief freighters of the metropolis, and on the opening of the rebellion he was found to be especially adapted to an important duty. This was the transportation of ordnance, military stores and commissary supplies throughout the cities of Brooklyn and New York. It was accomplished by him at a reduction of from one-third to one-half former cost, and with a rapidity and precision which knew no failure.

When the war closed John H. Starin's reputation as a freight operator led to a contract with one of the most important railroads, which placed its business in his hands. His facilities for loading and unloading their trains were such that the work was done at a reduction on previous cost, and hence the experiment proved mutually satisfactory. The example of the New Jersey Central was followed by other leading railroads until the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western and the Central-Hudson sought each a similar arrangement, and as a result the heaviest part of the freight was afterward removed by the one controlling intellect.

Mr. Starin's energy was soon turned to harbor navigation and this led to the purchase of the steamer *Blackbird*. Thus was begun a marine

interest which, subsequently became the most extensive in the waters of the metropolis and gave to him his well-known title. A grand fleet soon plied in the waters of the harbor and sound, bearing his especial signal, numbering in the various kinds of craft at one time 176 boats. A ship yard was established for construction and repair and the entire business was made successful beyond conception. Two lines of Staten Island Ferry and a steamboat line to New Haven were afterwards added to the list of Commodore Starin's enterprises. The creation of Glen Island out of a long neglected spot is also a remarkable proof of Commodore Starin's genius and taste. More than a half million visitors annually enjoy the benefit of this lovely resort during the season, and thus health and innocent pleasure are brought within the reach of the masses of the metropolis.

Commodore Starin has been often brought before the public as a leading agriculturist and hence it may be said that his home estate at Fultonville embraces six hundred acres of land, and are all under improvement. Its natural beauty, including a grand prospect of the valley, has been admirably assisted by art. Here Mr. Starin has given much attention to the rearing of blooded horses and cattle and to other features of advanced farming. A stately mansion crowns the highland, which is furnished with every modern improvement, and the grounds have been beautified until it is one of the most picturesque and attractive country homes in the state. Commodore Starin's floral taste has led to the erection of spacious conservatories, where may be seen the rarest exotics, including palms and agaves, as well as all varieties of flowers in perfect culture, and the grounds are enriched by the finest array of statuary (in marble and also in bronze) to be found in any private grounds in the country. Not the least in this number is a statue of the Commodore executed in bronze and presented by a number of New York business men as a token of regard. It is a fine likeness, and the unveiling of the statue was attended by a large assemblage of citizens. The addresses made on the occasion were both eloquent and appropriate, and the Commodore, being then in Europe, telegraphed a fitting response to this beautiful tribute.

A powerful motive in all of Commodore Starin's undertakings has been the pleasure he derived from giving employment to deserving

men, many of whom he has assisted to permanent success. Commodore Starin was elected to the United States congress by the 20th district in 1876 and also in 1878, and made for himself a record in Washington as a man of deeds rather than words.

Mr. Starin married Miss Laura Mears Poole, daughter of John Hudson Poole, a man of sterling character, a civil engineer by profession, and an associate of Dewitt Clinton. Mrs. Starin has been more than equal to all the emergencies of her husband's successful life and has proved herself a worthy helpmate and companion. Three sons and two daughters were born to them.

VAN HORNE, JOEL C., was born on the 16th of June, 1828, in the town of Glen, Montgomery county, N. Y. He is descended from one of the pioneers of that section, where his grandfather settled in the early years of that town. His father was Jacob Van Horne and his mother Sarah Faulkner, also of Glen. The family through the three generations have been farmers and among the most successful ones of the county. The children of Jacob Van Horne were six, four of whom were sons.

The subject of this notice was forced to depend upon the district school of his native town for his education; but what he there obtained he made good use of and has added to it during his life a fund of general information, particularly upon agricultural subjects. He began working out for neighboring farmers when only eleven years of age, his wages being only four dollars per month and his board; but he persevered in spite of his adverse circumstances, and by his sterling characteristics, his industry and reasonable economy, was able to acquire a competency and eventually to retire from a long period of active labor. For many years he was one of the largest shippers and dealers in hay in the country, in which business he was particularly successful.

In the year 1888 Mr. Van Horne settled in Amsterdam, but he still retains his interest in agriculture, owning two fine farms in his native town.

He was formerly a director in a bank at Johnstown and also at Fultonville. He was always averse to holding public office, declining to accept the honors proffered him by his fellow-citizens. In all his busi-

gained that eminent title—an honest man in its broadest sense. Fully imbued with Christian principles, he relied upon the teachings of the Bible for a guide, and the golden rule was a precept that he always endeavored to practice. His public spirit was conspicuous, and when he once decided that a measure for public welfare was deserving of his support, nothing could swerve him from it or shake his determination to carry it through. This characteristic was displayed in the water works difficulties in the village a few years ago, when he generously risked his money and sustained the effort. All who knew him found him a true friend in adversity. He retired from business in 1879, and was thenceforth engaged in the care of his estate, and was for many years a director of the Canajoharie Bank. He will be remembered in this vicinity not only as a successful merchant, but also as a kind and unostentatious member of society. At his death, which occurred June 19, 1892, the village lost one of its most honored citizens.

Mr. Bragdon was married in 1847 to Maria Fox, daughter of Charles Fox of Fort Plain. Their children who survive them are Winfield S. of Johnstown, James F. of Schenectady, and Mary A., wife of Harry A. Swartfinger of Canajoharie.

JOHNSTON, WILLIAM N., was born in Palatine Bridge, March 18, 1842. His father was George G. Johnston; his grandfather, George W. Johnston; his great-grandfather, George Johnston, a native of Inverness, Scotland, born in 1740, and who came to Stratford, Conn., in 1760, where he remained until his death in 1790; he had two children, George W. and Emily. George W. was born in 1770; in 1792 he married Nancy Wright, a niece of Governor Silas Wright, of New York. They had five sons and one daughter. He died in Glenville in 1840.

George G. Johnston, father of Wm. N., was born in Stratford in 1794; he served an apprenticeship in an iron foundry, which business he followed up and made a success of, having erected and owned foundries in Black Rock, Palatine Bridge, and the city of Brooklyn. He died in 1872. He was married three times; first to Gertrude Van Slyke, who bore him two sons and two daughters; second to Mary A.

ness relations with his fellow-men he is an example of honesty, always reliable and trustworthy, seldom if ever failing to keep his word, no matter how adverse the circumstances under which he may be placed. He is in every respect a self-made man, and enjoys the respect and confidence of the community in which he lives.

Mr. Van Horne was first married February 4, 1869, to Alice A., youngest daughter of Abram V. Putman, of Glen. She died on the 22d of February, 1887, survived by only one child, Libbie V., who, on the 24th of June, 1891, was united in marriage to Mr. J. Enders Van Derveer, of Glen, N. Y. Mr. Van Horne's present wife, Kate Morford, was a teacher in California for several years previous to their marriage, which occurred June 11, 1888. Her parents, John N. and Margaret (Ingersoll) Morford, are residents of his native town.

Mr. Van Horne is temperate in all things, enjoys the society and comforts of his home to all others, but nevertheless he has traveled quite extensively, both in his native and foreign countries.

McFARLAN, JOHN.—Among the many sturdy Scotch immigrants who settled early in the present century was Donald McFarlan, of the parish of Collander, Perthshire, Scotland, where he was born September 22, 1773. He came to Montgomery county in 1801 and settled in Perth. His wife was Catherine McFarlan (of another family of that name) to whom he was married in 1819. Their children were Alexander and Catherine (twins), John, the subject of this notice, Jeanette, Margaret and Isabel. Donald McFarlan died when his son John was quite young and the boy went to live with an uncle on a farm, where he attended the district school when he could be spared from labor. His first occupation for himself was as a clerk in a store in Broadalbin, whence he went to West Galway as partner in a country store from May, 1855, to May, 1857. He next came to Amsterdam and entered the store of Hawley & Cady where he remained for a time and left it to engage in the manufacture of knit goods in company with William Stewart and John C. Miller at Forestville. In 1861 he formed a partnership in the knit goods manufacture with Abram Marcellus, and for twenty-three years, until 1884, the two men labored

together in harmony and built up one of the largest manufacturing industries of the place. In 1884 Mr. Marcellus retired and Mr. McFarlan continued the business until his death. Soon after the retirement of Mr. Marcellus, a nephew of Mr. McFarlan, John H. Giles, was taken into the firm.

In his long business career in Amsterdam Mr. McFarlan developed and exhibited those marked traits of character which gave him his place among the foremost citizens of the place. Possessed of the typical qualities of his race, he was a most industrious and persevering worker, while his business sagacity was keen and comprehensive. He was a man of positive nature, decided in his opinions and courageous and unhesitating in expressing them. Frank to the point of bluntness, fully endowed with sound common sense, he was never blinded by sophistry or superficiality, and his sturdy honesty was proverbial. He showed strong attachment for his friends and never betrayed their confidence. To his employees he was ever considerate, but he could not be driven from his theories as to what was just and right between himself and those in his service. In the knit goods strike of 1886, no manufacturer exhibited more firmness in refusing to grant the unjust demands of the Knights of Labor. In his home he was a most kind and considerate husband and devoted father. He will long be remembered as one of the men of force, character and enterprise who have done so much to make Amsterdam what it now is. He was for many years a director of the Farmer's National Bank and held the office of vice-president at the time of his death. He was a charter member of the Board of Trade, a trustee of the Green Hill Cemetery Association, and a director of the Chuctenunda Gaslight Company. In politics he was an uncompromising Republican, but never sought political office. He was a consistent Christian and long a trustee of his church. In various ways he filled a large place in the public and private life of his adopted city.

Mr. McFarlan was married on the 6th of November, 1867, to Sophia Aulls Capell, of Dansville, N. Y., by Rev. M. S. Goodale. His death occurred December 4, 1891, at the Glen Sanitarium, Watkins, N. Y. His widow survives as a resident of Amsterdam. A daughter, Miss Katherine McFarlan, and two sons, George and John, also survive Miss Isabel McFarlan of Broadalbin, and Mrs. Catherine Giles, of Rockport, Mass., are sisters of Mr. McFarlan.

ROBB, WILLIAM H., was born in the town of Florida, Montgomery county, July 1, 1843. He is a son of James M. Robb, also a native of Florida, and by occupation a farmer. Their immediate ancestor was George Robb, a native of Scotland, whence he came to Montgomery county in the early years of its settlement. James M. Robb's wife, and the mother of William H., was Cathaline Crawford, of Princeton, Schenectady county, N. Y. Their family consisted of ten children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the youngest. Reared during his early life on his father's farm, the lad attended the district school in alternation with his labor at home, and subsequently was in attendance at the academy in Fergusenville, Delaware county, N. Y., the seminary in Middletown, Saratoga county, and the Saratoga High School. Returning to Amsterdam he closed his studies in school in the Amsterdam Academy in 1862.

The young man had ere this formed the determination to study for the medical profession, but preparatory to beginning he taught school one winter on what was known as "Yankee Hill," near Amsterdam, and finished a term for A. W. Cox in the stone school-house in Amsterdam.

On the 4th of April, 1863, when he was twenty years old, Mr. Robb began his medical studies with Dr. Jacob G. Snell, of Amsterdam. In December, 1865, he graduated from the Albany Medical College, and on the 1st of January, 1866, commenced his professional life by forming a partnership with his preceptor, Dr. Snell. They continued together in harmony and the enjoyment of a large and increasing practice until 1873, since which date Dr. Robb has practiced alone, with the exception of three years (1880-83), when he was associated with Dr. Charles Stover.

Such is a brief record of the career of one of the successful physicians of Montgomery county. The personal traits and characteristics and the acquired attainments which have contributed to give Dr. Robb his present professional standing are chiefly a naturally studious inclination, with physical powers to endure arduous study; persistence in the early formed determination to succeed in life; exceptional industry and that personal attribute called by such names as magnetism, sympathy, and the tenderness of heart that is so potent in the sick room. These

attributes have made him welcome in a great number of homes extending throughout and beyond the county, and brought him at a comparatively early age a degree of success that is most enviable. He has been a member of the County Medical Society since 1866, and has held the offices of president and vice-president of the society; is a member of the New York State Medical Association and one of its founders; a member of the American Medical Association.

In the other relations of life Dr. Robb is no less happily situated. He is public spirited, with a strong faith in the future of his adopted home, and enters energetically into any project that promises to benefit Amsterdam. As evidence of this, it may be mentioned that he was the original advocate of measures to supply the city with pure water, and labored assiduously for years to that end. He also took an active and intelligent part in the movement that resulted in providing a system of sewerage, in its benefits second only to the water supply. It has been mainly through the efforts of Dr. Robb that the Public Library has been successfully organized, an undertaking, the benefits from which will reflect credit upon him in the future. His fellow citizens have called him to the office of health officer, and he was a member of the school board for a number of years.

Dr. Robb was married on the 14th of November, 1872, to Miss Margaret J. Moody. They have four children, two sons and two daughters.

EIGHMY, JOHN W., was born in Milton, Saratoga county, on the 5th day of August, 1845. He is the son of Alfred Eighmy, who was a contractor and builder, and was born in the farm house in the town above named. Alfred Eighmy married Louisa Spencer, also a native of Milton. The Eighmy family are of German descent. There were four children of Alfred and Louisa Eighmy; the eldest a daughter who is deceased; twin sons, living, and the subject of this sketch.

John W. Eighmy's early life was passed at home, working on the farm in summer and attending the district school winters. At sixteen years of age he was thrown upon his own resources and without other means of bettering his circumstances than a strong will and unflinching determination. He engaged to work on a farm at \$5 per month, and

during a few succeeding years divided his time between attending school and working to pay his expenses. He early determined to become a lawyer, and to that end threw his whole energies into the work of obtaining an education and to the study of his profession. At the age of nineteen years he entered the office of Judge Batcheller, at Saratoga Springs, where he finished his studies and when twenty-one years old was admitted to the bar. For several years he successfully practiced at Saratoga, during which period several important cases in the higher courts were entrusted to his care. About the year 1875 he came to Amsterdam, where he soon occupied an honorable position and by close attention to his business and integrity in all transactions with his fellows, has risen still further in public esteem. For the past ten years his time has almost wholly been given to pension business, and no other man in Northern New York has had so large a volume of this work entrusted to him, or been so successful in prosecuting claims of all kinds. It has been said that he never undertakes a poor claim, and never abandons a good one. He is a man of excellent judgment, possesses a clear and logical mind, and is genial, courteous and popular. In 1887 he received the Democratic nomination for justice of the civil court of Amsterdam. His opponent was considered one of the strongest that the Republicans could nominate, and while the Democratic ticket was defeated, Judge Eighmy was honored with election. For four years he faithfully, honorably and efficiently discharged the duties of the office, giving the best of satisfaction to the public at large.

Mr. Eighmy was married October 3, 1877, to Adelaide A. Clarke, daughter of Dr. Alfred Clarke, of Syracuse, N. Y.

BUCKBEE, ISRAEL I., was born on the 12th of February, 1821, in Dutchess county, N. Y. He is the son of Gilbert I. and Mary Buckbee, and is the representative of the fourth generation to bear the name, Israel Buckbee, in this county. His grandfather, Jeremiah Buckbee, was one of seven sons, five of whom fought bravely in the revolutionary war. He was of English origin and a prominent farmer in Dutchess county, where he owned a valuable tract of land; he also owned a tract of land in Warren county, mostly uncleared,

and there the doctor's parents went as pioneers in 1822, to share in the improvement and development of that locality. Gilbert I. Buckbee, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in 1794 and died in Fonda in 1878, at the age of eighty-four years. Three years later his wife died in the same place, aged eighty-five. On the home farm in Warren county, in what was almost a wilderness, Dr. Buckbee's boyhood was passed, until his father purchased another farm nearer to the village of Glens Falls. The family and their ancestors were Quakers. At the age of seventeen years the young man began the study of medicine with Drs. Clark & Peck, of Glens Falls, and later he studied with Dr. Littlefield, his uncle. This was followed by one year's course in the Vermont Medical College, and two more in the Albany Medical College, from which he graduated in 1841. He spent one year with Dr. Snow, of Root, Montgomery county, and afterwards located in Fonda, where he has since resided and practiced his profession. He is a member of the Montgomery County Medical society, and has been a member of the New York State Medical Society since 1866. On the 10th of September, 1890, Dr. Buckbee completed a period of practice of fifty years' duration, and the occasion was honored by a meeting of his professional brethren in the county society, and others, which was held at his residence in Fonda. After a repast brief congratulatory addresses were made by Dr. Charles Stover, then president of the society; Dr. William H. Robb of Amsterdam, and Dr. Van Derveer of Albany, to which Dr. Buckbee made a fitting and feeling response. Letters were also read from several who could not be present. It cannot be out of place here to quote briefly from the remarks of Dr. Stover, addressed directly to the host, in which he said: "If the mind is allowed to run backward fifty years and recall the scanty equipment that the period allowed the medical student to be provided with when he launched into practice; if one will recall the lack of clinical instruction, the paucity of instruments of precision, the labyrinthine maze of rooted superstitions and venerated errors that preceded the application of the inductive method to medicine, and then reflect that our associate whom we are here to honor to-night has kept even pace with the march of medical progress, that the mellow experience of his life has been so blended with latter day

science that we are all content to sit at his feet and be taught, we must award to him proven qualities of industry and courage. I hope we may hear from his own lips to what conditions and to what circumstances may be attributed his signal success. For it *is* success for fifty years to have gone in and out amid the families of a community, and to have sympathized with them in their sorrow and rejoiced with them in their joy, to have given comfort to the afflicted, to have buoyed them up with hope when hope seemed dead, to have protected family honor, and been able to shield the innocent and the weak while presenting no barrier to offended justice. It *is* success for fifty years to have done one's duty as an honest citizen at the caucus and the polls, while touching the community at so many points as only the physician may; it *is* success to have merited and held the esteem of one's professional associates, to have been in sympathy with the enthusiastic aspirations of youth, to have borne the friction of laudable strife without sacrifice of one's manliness."

Others of the speakers echoed similar sentiments to the foregoing and all testified to the eminent professional and manly qualities of Dr. Buckbee.

Dr. Buckbee was married on the 14th of February, 1844, to Anna C., daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Bunn, of Amsterdam. They have one child, Luella B., wife of Ferguson Jansen, one of the solid business men of Fonda, and the couple has two sons, Frederick Israel and Romeyn Buckbee. Frederick has chosen the medical profession and is now in Yale University. Romeyn is also pursuing useful education.

Dr. Buckbee, in addition to his professional labors, has taken much interest in agriculture and owns a good farm near Fonda, and his residence is one of the finest in the village — none too good, however, for one who has so truly won the title of "the beloved physician."

VAN BUREN, CORNELIUS.—The ancestors of the subject of this sketch were Holland Dutch, and his grandfather, whose name was also Cornelius, left the valley of the Hudson river and settled at a very early day with the other pioneers of the town of Glen, Montgomery county, N. Y. There he cleared and improved a farm, reared his family, and lived a life of respectability and met with such success as fell

to the hardy settlers of that locality. Among his children was Peter P. Van Buren, who was born in the town of Glen on the 24th of January, 1814, and died there on the 17th of May, 1851. His wife was Rachel Enders. Peter P. Van Buren was also a farmer and passed his life in his native town, where he gained the respect and confidence due to the man of integrity and industry. He had children as follows: Cornelius, the eldest; Emily, born April 15, 1842, married Boyd R. Hudson, of Glen; Helen, born September 10, 1844, married David Getman, a well-known citizen of Mayfield, Fulton county; Enders, born December 10, 1847, died July, 1881; Martin, born June 17, 1850, now living in Amsterdam. Rachel Van Buren, the mother of these children, was a woman of excellent qualities, and died on the 16th of July, 1873.

Cornelius Van Buren was born in Glen January 25, 1840, and his boyhood until he was fourteen years old was passed wholly on his father's farm, interspersed with some attendance at the district school. While he never had a taste for the arduous toil of the farmer and early formed a determination that he would devote his life to mercantile business of some kind, he still learned lessons of industry and energy which have served him well since. He was given unusually good opportunity for that period to secure an education, following his attendance at the district school with two years at the Johnstown academy, one year at the Amsterdam academy, and one year at the excellent school at Claverack, N. Y. Thus well equipped and with his habits well formed he began in the course he had laid out for himself by the not very lofty position of clerk in a grocery at the canal station of Auriesville; but he was selling goods and that for the time satisfied his ambition, and his work, such as it was, he performed faithfully. He remained there from 1858 to 1860, when he moved a step higher by going to Fultonville, where he engaged as clerk for the firm of Voorhees, Van Antwerp & Co., who were the proprietors of the Fultonville and New York transportation line. That was before the railroad had been able to make the inroads that have been made in later years into the business of the canal, and this transportation line, like many others, carried on a large trade and their shipments were extensive. It was an excellent business school, for the young man bought as well as sold all kinds of produce, transactions sometimes being large, besides gaining the business experi-

ence of great value in connection with the diversified interests of the firm. He capably filled the position three years, when the firm placed sufficient confidence in him to send him to New York city to act as their agent at that end of the line. In the metropolis, where in the course of business he met men of large views and at the head of great interests, he gained still further insight into the methods and principles of successful men. He remained in New York three years, at the end of which period he made his final change by coming to Amsterdam in 1866, where he made his permanent home and has successfully carried on a large business for twenty-five years. He associated with himself John C. Putman in the purchase and sale of grain, flour and feed and D. & H. coal. The partnership continued until 1881, since which time Mr. Van Buren has carried on the business alone and with gratifying success. Applying the methods with which he had become conversant through his former long and varied experience, and governing his business conduct by the underlying principles of integrity, energy, industry and push, he long ago took a position among the foremost. The yards and property necessary for his business are situated on the south side of the river in what was formerly Port Jackson, and this property he has acquired by purchase; his residence is also on that side of the river.

Mr. Van Buren has received ample evidence of the confidence of his fellow citizens since his settlement in Amsterdam. He was made a trustee of Port Jackson not long after his arrival and held the office several terms, as he also did that of trustee of school district No. 13. A Republican in politics, he has brought to the support of that party an intelligent and hearty interest, wholly on account of the principles which it advocates and not as an avenue to private advancement. He was elected to the office of supervisor of the town and held it three years, 1878-80. This was followed by his nomination and election to the State Assembly, 1881-1882, when he had the honor of serving his constituents in the memorable long session, lasting into July, when Roscoe Conkling's interests were uppermost. In 1887 he was elected one of the Board of Aldermen of the city of Amsterdam, where his public spirit and sound judgment on public matters were fully appreciated. He aided in organizing the Merchants' National bank and was its vice-

president until its affairs were wound up. Upon the organization of the City National bank in 1890 he was made one of the board of directors and now holds that position. He is one of the board of sewer commissioners of the city, and in no one of these stations, political, financial or municipal, has he faltered in what he believed to be his duty or mistaken the path leading to the best results. He has been trustee of Amsterdam City hospital, and is now its president.

Mr. Van Buren was married January 24, 1867, in Boston, to Miss Marion B. Gove, daughter of George G. Gove, of that city. Their children are as follows: George G., born June 16, 1868, married Jessie Macqueen, of Schenectady, and has one child; Florence, born January 18, 1870, died May 28, 1876; Grace, born January 6, 1879, living with her parents; Harral, born February 20, 1885, died August 13, 1885.

KELLOGG, JOHN.—This name is a familiar one in the history of Montgomery county. Supplina Kellogg was one of the early settlers of West Galway, and there in 1824 founded the manufacture of linseed oil in a small way, and carried it on until 1848. He came to this vicinity from Massachusetts and lived a life of usefulness and respectability. His wife was Susan Aldrich, of Rhode Island. They were parents of six children, all of whom are deceased excepting the subject of this sketch. John Kellogg's opportunities for securing an education were confined to the district school, but his mental qualities are of an absorbent character and through extensive reading, particularly upon subjects relating to the government and growth of his native country and its institutions, and close association with his fellow men, he long ago became possessed of a large store of general information which has served him well in the place of ampler school education. Upon the death of his father in 1848, himself and his brother, Lauren Kellogg, succeeded to the business of oil manufacture, then an insignificant industry beside its present proportions. The brothers conducted the business together with success until the death of Lauren Kellogg in 1853, when James A. Miller was admitted to the firm. In 1872, George Kellogg, son of John, was admitted, and in 1879, Lauren Kellogg, another son, was admitted to the partnership. During the

period covered by these changes the business has been increased to an extent that seems almost marvelous. From a product of only a very few barrels per day, it has risen to nearly 50,000 barrels a year, and is shipped to all parts of the United States. About 15,000 tons of oil cake are also produced, with an annual consumption of more than 750,000 bushels of flax seed. A flax mill is also operated by the firm for the production of tow, and in 1879, in order to secure better shipping facilities, they built a private railroad of about one and one-half miles in length, running from their works to the New York Central. Taken as a whole it is one of the most important manufacturing industries in the state of New York.

Leaving the business industry of which Mr. Kellogg is the head, his personality deserves consideration, for he occupies a position of acknowledged eminence in the community where he lives, not only as a factor in its material growth, but intellectually, socially and financially. He is thoroughly informed upon all public topics and his counsel is much sought and deferred to by municipal officers and those still higher in authority. Long ago, in 1863, he was elected to the state assembly and served his constituents and the state with faithfulness and efficiency. An astute observer of men and a thinker upon subjects of current interest, there are few persons ordinarily met with who are more familiar with contemporaneous history. The policy and actions of statesmen, the conditions of industry, trends of enterprise in all directions, as well as the operations of public society in science, art and religion, are all subjects of thought and reading to him, and his convictions thus formed he possesses the ability to express in clear and terse English, and the firmness to uphold them to the utmost on all proper occasions. He is still liberal in his tendencies and believes that every man should have the liberty he demands for himself. He is a strong and earnest Republican in politics, unswerving and determined in his political faith and action, but he does not quarrel with those who are less radical than himself; and so in his religious views, while he is extremely liberal and a broad and firm believer in the doctrine of evolution, he never seeks to force upon others his own beliefs, and lives a life that in all of its activities, honors his profession and himself. Mr. Kellogg has been for a number of years a member of the state committee,

and has always given intelligent and effective work to the welfare of the political party to which he belongs. He was chosen president of the Farmers' National Bank in 1890, after serving long as a director, and the institution profits by his prudent and wise direction. He is one of the water commissioners of the city, a trustee of the academy, vice-president of the cemetery association, a director in the board of trade, etc. In all these capacities he receives the constant assurance of his fellow citizens that his influence and his work are worthy of their commendation.

Mr. Kellogg was married on September 11, 1850, to Olive Davis, daughter of Benjamin Davis, of Galway, Saratoga county, N. Y. They have had four children: The eldest daughter was the wife of Howland Fish, son of Frothingham Fish, of Fulton county; she is deceased; George and Lauren Kellogg, both associated with their father in business; and a daughter, who is living with her parents.

BRONSON, JAMES H., was born in Amsterdam, N. Y., December 22, 1826. His father was George J. Brownson (the "w" having been since dropped by the members of the family), a native of Winchester, Conn., who came to Amsterdam with his parents when only two years old. They settled on a farm about two miles west of Amsterdam. There, in later years, he carried on farming to some extent, and also laid the foundation of an industry which was destined to become one of great importance. He was the first manufacturer of brooms in the state of New York, the first made in the country having been produced on the Connecticut river. His factory was established near Amsterdam, and as the business rapidly increased the surrounding farmers began, and subsequently profitably prosecuted, the raising of broom-corn to supply the new demand. In later years this agricultural product became a source of considerable profit in this locality. The elder Mr. Brownson continued in the business until 1856 and died in 1867, in the enjoyment of both material success in life and the more valued respect and confidence of all who knew him. His wife was Esther Roseboom, of Amsterdam, who is also deceased. Their family consisted of three daughters and five sons, three of the latter only now living.

When James H. Bronson reached a proper age he attended the district school at Amsterdam, the education thus obtained being supplemented by a term in the Amsterdam Academy and a course at Union College, from which he graduated in 1848. Leaving college, he taught one year in a Brooklyn grammar school and then began his business career as proprietor of a hardware store in Whitehall, N. Y., where he remained four and a half years, meeting with moderate success. In 1856 he returned to Amsterdam to take possession of the broom business of his father. The industry had by that time reached considerable importance, about forty hands being employed and the product finding a ready market over a wide extent of territory. From that time until 1891 Mr. Bronson devoted his entire energies, as far as business relations were concerned, to the further development and perfection of the industry founded by his father. Endowed with excellent judgment and foresight, which were coupled with habits of industry, sobriety and perseverance, with executive ability of a high order, it was only a natural result of his efforts that the business should grow as it did. As improved methods of manufacture were discovered or invented, many of which were at least partially due to the personal genius of Mr. Bronson, they were adopted, while the reputation and market for the product were extended proportionately, so that when he laid down his active work in that connection the factory employed about 175 hands. The business was sold to the Chicago Broom Company in 1891.

In politics Mr. Bronson was originally a Free-soiler and in 1848 cast his vote for Martin Van Buren for the presidency. But his father had been one of the early Abolitionists and was active as an agent for the "Underground" railroad, as well as an ardent temperance reformer. In this atmosphere the young man was trained and when the Republican party was formed he joined its ranks. Until 1872 he gave his influence to that political organization, but in that year, becoming convinced that as long as the two great political parties then occupying the field continued in power, the cause of temperance could not materially advance, he changed his allegiance to the Prohibition party and since that time he has been one of the advanced, active and influential workers in that field. Endowed with education, an easy and forcible speaker and a graceful writer, Mr. Bronson has found ample opportunity

to make use of these qualifications for the good of the cause which he has at heart. On numerous occasions he has addressed and read papers before ministerial and other associations on the subject; his last paper under the title of "The Christian Voter and the Liquor Traffic," he read before the ministerial association at Saratoga in the summer of 1892. He hopes to live to see the ultimate triumph of temperance throughout the land. He has held the office of president of the New York State Temperance society. In Amsterdam he has evinced public spirit and aided as far as possible the cause of religion and education; has been a member of the Presbyterian church for fifty years and elder for a number of years; has been trustee of the academy and president of school district No. 11; a stockholder in the street railway company and in many other ways has received evidence of the confidence of his fellow-citizens.

Mr. Bronson was married first in 1855 to Evelyn E. Utter, of Whitehall; she died April 20, 1879. He married second in November, 1882, Abbie S. Hervey, of Andover, Mass. They have no children.

WESTBROOK, HON. ZERAH S., of the city of Amsterdam, was born April 7, 1845, at Montague, Sussex county, New Jersey. His parents were Severyne L. Westbrook, an enterprising and respected farmer of that town, and Susan E. (Armstrong) Westbrook, daughter of James B. Armstrong, an influential farmer of the same town; the former of Hollandish, and the latter of Irish descent. There were six children—four sons and two daughters, of which Zerah was next to the youngest. His father died on March 20, 1849, when Zerah was only four years old. His mother died on November 22, 1889, in the 77th year of her age, and they were both buried in the cemetery of the Dutch Reformed church at Montague, of which church his mother was a devout member. His father left a small estate, consisting chiefly of a farm.

Young Westbrook worked out by the month for farmers in the vicinity of his old home to earn his living until he was seventeen years old, with the exception of the time spent in school. He attended the district schools of his native town from time to time during his early years, and also a select school a few months at Milford, Pa.

In July, 1862, at the age of seventeen years, while at work for Hon. Isaac Bonnell on his farm in Montague, he enlisted with a large number of young men, friends and acquaintances of his youth, as a private in Co. I, Fifteenth N. J. Vols. to serve in the Union Army. Though fully armed and equipped as a member of his company, he was refused muster in the United States service by the federal mustering officer, because he was under the age limit of eighteen years. Nevertheless he went to the front with his company upon the assurances of his captain that he would in due time be mustered in the United States service. Being of a plucky and partiotic disposition, he cheerfully continued in the ranks of his company and went to the front with his regiment, being assigned to General Phil. Kearney's old famous New Jersey Brigade, the first brigade, first division, of the Sixth Corps in the Army of the Potomac. He served with his company during the fall and winter of 1862-3, participating in the battle of Fredericksburg and Burnside's famous mud march, sharing and enduring all the trials and hardships of the Army of the Potomac during that trying period of the war, carrying a musket and taking his part as a common soldier. He was never, however, able to obtain muster into the United States service, his case having been neglected by the captain of his company, who resigned his commission and left the service a few months after the muster of the company. Being unable to obtain muster in the United States service, and becoming sick and incapacitated by disease and exposure, in the spring of 1863 at White Oak Church, Va., his colonel gave him an honorable discharge and sent him home. He then returned to his home without ever having received any pay or bounty from the United States, except one month's pay which was paid in advance on enlistment. After his return home and recruiting his health he worked on a farm for one summer in Montague. Having determined to continue his studies and prepare for a profession he entered the academy at Deckertown, N. J., in the fall of 1863, and after pursuing a course of studies there for nearly two years he went to Suffield, Ct., and entered the Literary Institute at that place, where he continued his studies and graduated in 1866. Having no means to take a college course he selected the law for his profession, and went to Albany, N. Y., and entered the Albany Law School, where he graduated with the degree of LL. B., in May, 1867, and was admitted to the bar at a General Term of the Supreme Court held at Albany.

Necessity compelled him to earn his living at once, and he immediately began the practice of his profession at Northampton, Fulton county, where he continued, teaching the public school there for one summer in connection with his law practice, until April, 1871, when he removed to the village, now the city of Amsterdam, and took up his residence there and opened an office for legal practice, where he has since resided and practiced his profession. While residing at Northampton he was married in February, 1870, to Matilda F., daughter of Fay Smith, deceased, formerly a well-known merchant of that place. His wife is still living.

Three children have been born to them, Edith, born August 11, 1871, Charles S., born January 27, 1875, and Bessie Evelyn, born February 13, 1880. Charles S. died November 21, 1878, the others are still living.

Soon after he was old enough to vote, young Westbrook espoused the cause of Democracy, and he has always been an earnest, active and consistent Democrat, advocating and supporting the cause of his party and its candidates, and has always been recognized as a trusted leader of his party in his county.

In 1873 he was elected president of Amsterdam village over E. D. Bronson, a popular candidate of the Republican party, and in 1874 he was re-elected without opposition. In 1877 he was the candidate of the Democrats for county judge of Montgomery county, and was elected over the Hon. S. Pulver Heath, the incumbent of the office, by 1,319 majority. He was re-elected in 1883 over Charles P. Winegar by the unprecedented majority of 2,221.

After serving as county judge and ex-officio surrogate faithfully and to the entire satisfaction of the people of the county for ten years, he resigned the office to accept the position of deputy comptroller of the State, tendered to him by Hon. Edward Wemple, the comptroller elect. He resigned the office of county judge and assumed the duties of deputy comptroller on January 1, 1888, which important and laborious position he faithfully filled to the credit of himself and the great financial department of the State until January 1st, 1892, when he resumed his legal practice at Amsterdam, to which he has since given his entire attention, conducting a large business in general practice in the courts. The official comptroller's reports for the years 1888-1892, prepared by him,

exhibit his industry and familiarity with the state administration and its financial affairs.

In 1888 while serving as deputy comptroller, against his wishes but in the interest of his party, he accepted the Democratic nomination for representative in congress in the twentieth or Saratoga district, his opponent being Hon. John Sanford of Amsterdam. The district being strongly Republican there was no chance for his election, and he was defeated with his party, though he received the largest vote ever given for a Democrat in the district and ran nearly one thousand ahead of his party ticket.

Judge Westbrook has occupied a leading position at the bar of his section of the state for a number of years, and is recognized everywhere as a sound and successful lawyer and an excellent *nisi prius* practitioner and advocate. He has a large clientage, and his services are always desired in important litigations in his county in which he is most always employed on one side. His faithfulness to his clients and devotion to their interests are proverbial. The published reports of the courts of record of this state show the great variety and amount of important and successful work done by him in litigations during the past eighteen years.

Many important cases in which he was successful show the importance and variety of his legal efforts. He was the counsel for Hon. Edward Wemple, Democrat, in the contest of Hon. Austin A. Yates before the state senate in 1886, over the election of senator from the eighteenth district in the election of 1885, but succeeded in convincing a Republican senate that Senator Wemple was fairly elected by ten votes and entitled to the seat.

He was also the successful counsel for Hon. John F. Dwyer, the contestant for member of assembly from Montgomery county before the assembly of 1890, and secured the seat for Mr. Dwyer from the sitting member. He was also the successful counsel for Hon. George J. Gove, member of assembly from Montgomery county for 1892, and succeeded in retaining him his seat in the state assembly.

The most noted litigation that Judge Westbrook was the successful counsel in was what were known as the Diefendorf patent right note cases, which occupied the courts for five years.

In those cases John F. Diefendorf, a farmer of the town of Root, Montgomery county, was swindled by patent right sharpers to the extent of \$12,000, in December, 1886, by promissory notes that were fraudulently obtained from him for a patent right for an alleged fire kindler. The notes were disposed of to alleged bona fide holders, who brought actions in the Supreme Court against Diefendorf to recover thereon. Judge Westbrook defended the cases, and though defeated in the lower courts he succeeded in the Court of Appeals in obtaining an interpretation of the law entirely new in its application to cases upon notes of that character, by which he finally defeated a recovery upon all the notes and saved his unfortunate client from paying any of them.

Judge Westbrook's life presents an interesting and instructive history, and furnishes an example worthy of emulation by all aspiring young men.

He is a representative American and a self-made man, having worked his way up to his present prominent position from the lowest round of the ladder without financial means or other help aside from his own ability and industry.

He possesses administrative and judicial abilities of a high order, as has been attested by his successful discharge of official functions. His life work has been characterized throughout by indomitable industry and perseverance, and intelligent and faithful devotion to all interests entrusted to him, which have been the underlying basis for his success.

He is a man of generous impulses and kindly nature, strong and devoted in his friendships and ever ready to forgive an enemy, but never yielding his convictions of right, or compromising with anything that is mean or dishonorable. Plain, unassuming, sincere and energetic, he pursues with untiring energy anything that pertains to his business or duties, or the interests of those entrusted to him. Still in the prime of life and actively pursuing his business and calling, there are undoubtedly before him yet many years of usefulness and successful work.

BUNN, THOMAS, the subject of this sketch, and whose portrait appears in this volume, was born in the town of Amsterdam June 16, 1803, near Manny's Corners, where his parents lived on a farm for some years and where they are buried. Mr. Bunn's father's name was



Thomas Bunn

John, and he died in 1813. His mother's name was Temperance French, and she died the following year, 1814. They had both reached their fiftieth year. Most of their days had been spent upon the farm where their large family of children had been born—seven daughters and four sons. The eldest child was Abigail; then followed Ann. Abner was the first son and he lived but twenty-two years. Then came John, Mary, Jane, Thankful, Nathaniel, Thomas, Sarah and Clara. The last child, Clara, was born in 1808 and is the only one of the large family now living; she is eighty-five years old (1892), lives in Troy, is very bright and active and is able to walk long distances. All of these children but Abner lived to be over seventy years old and some of them reached their ninetieth year. Thomas, the fourth son, was helpful on the farm as a boy and after reaching manhood he entered upon a more active life in the village where, in 1824, he married Elizabeth Button, who came from Pennsylvania. After living in Amsterdam village about two years he moved to Tripe's Hill (now Tribes Hill), where he kept a hotel on the old turnpike road which, in those days, brought by stage much travel from Albany and Schenectady, going through to Utica. Hotels (or, rather, as they were called in those days, public houses) were well patronized by travelers, for then journeys were made with horses. It was while Mr. Bunn lived here that he and his family went to the brow of the hill and there saw the then wonderful sight of the first train of cars moving through the Mohawk valley. Mr. Bunn owned a farm at this place while he conducted the hotel. He was also postmaster.

His first child, Anna C., now the wife of Dr. I. I. Buckbee, of Fonda, was born in Amsterdam before he moved to Tribes Hill, and while at the latter place seven children were born: Mary E., Laura V., Harriet L., John T., Minerva (who lived but two years), Emily and Elmira, the latter living less than three months. In January, 1841, he removed with his family to Fonda, the county seat, where he served as sheriff for three years, having been elected in the fall of 1840. Another son was born while there, Orville C., who lived a little more than eighteen years and died in Silver City, Nevada, in 1861.

January 1, 1844, Mr. Bunn with his family removed to Amsterdam, where he bought the large stone house and farm of fifty acres of

Matthias J. Bovee. This stone house was built by the Rev. Halsey Wood, who was then pastor of the Presbyterian church. The old house now stands as one of the ancient landmarks, with its large and well-ventilated rooms, having six of the old-fashioned fire-places, most of which are used at the present day. The one in the dining room is hung with a crane with its hanging hooks, and its hearth is of stone, four feet wide by ten feet long, which was cut in the quarries by Mr. Bunn when the house was built more than seventy years ago, while he lived as a young man in Amsterdam and worked for a time as a stone cutter. This old house is now the property of Mr. Bunn's second daughter, Miss Mary E. Bunn, who remodeled principally the exterior, leaving the interior nearly the same as of old, except for the addition of many modern conveniences. The last child of this large family, T. Romeyn Bunn, was born in this old house in 1844. Thomas Bunn's wife, Elizabeth, died in 1864 in her sixty-first year, leaving a sweet memory; she was beloved by all whose privilege it was to know her. In 1867 Mr. Bunn married Mrs. Catharine Belding, who died in the following year.

Mr. Bunn had been identified with the business interests and growth of Amsterdam for most of his lifetime. He was an old time Democrat in politics, and the Albany *Argus* had been in his home for nearly half a century. He was a man whose judgment in matters of business was safe, and by his great foresight in buying both the Bovee farm and later the Arnold farm, he left to his family a growing and valuable property. He lived an abstemious life and his habits were most correct and methodical. About 1862 he began to sell for building lots some of the farm lands now that part of Greene street near Wall, and a few years later he sold the property where the Academy now stands. Bunn street was named for him and up to and along this street he sold in his lifetime, and also on Market street, taking in his old and cherished orchard lying between Market street and the grove connected with the homestead. Thomas street was also named for him. Mr. Bunn was connected with different banking houses and his name gave strength and confidence to whatever business he was connected with. He died August 31, 1883, in his eighty-first year, having been a member of the Presbyterian church about thirty years. He left seven children and to these children he left a valuable property and an untarnished name.

MORRIS, ABRAM VROOMAN, was born on the 4th of April, 1825, in the town of Watervliet, Albany county, N. Y., and is the second son of Isaac and Jane (Vrooman) Morris. Isaac Morris was a practical shoemaker, but after following that business, and keeping a shoe store for a time after his removal to Amsterdam in 1827, he engaged in the grocery trade. Jane Vrooman, who became the wife of Isaac Morris, was from Schenectady county and a member of the family of that name which is conspicuous in the history of the lower Mohawk valley. Isaac Morris died in 1870. Their family consisted of ten children, nine of whom were sons.

Abram V. Morris attended the district schools and a short term at Horace Sprague's academy; but the circumstances of his father's family were such that he felt impelled to strike out in the world for himself at an early age. When twelve years old he went into the store of James B. and Darwin Reed in Amsterdam, where he served three years. His next employment was in Albany in the store of Seth Crapo, where he remained one year. His health was not good at that time and he returned to Amsterdam and for a short period taught the village school. This employment was not congenial to him, and he found a situation in the refreshment rooms at the railroad station in St. Johnsville. He also served as wood measurer for the railroad company for about two years, and by his industry, probity and evident interest for his employers, won the lasting regard of William C. Young, who was then superintendent of the Utica and Schenectady railroad. Returning to Amsterdam, Mr. Morris accepted a position in the dry goods store of J. W. Sturtevant, where he remained till the spring of 1846. Up to this time the larger part of his earnings had gone to aid the large family of his parents; but he had made some small trade ventures of his own, and in 1846 opened a grocery and provision store on Main street, where F. W. Bohny is now (1892) located. Here the natural traits and firm determination of the young man to succeed soon exhibited themselves. Personal self denial he practiced to the utmost, while he gave unremitting attention to the smallest details of his business. He bought his goods then chiefly in New York city, the ubiquitous drummer not having yet been born, and he showed his native sagacity and common sense no less in selling at home than in his purchases from the large wholesalers of the metropo-

lis. Of course the business grew ; it was inevitable. For fourteen years Mr. Morris toiled incessantly in his store, bringing him down to the year 1860, when he sold the business to two younger brothers and found himself in possession of almost a small fortune.

By the time under consideration, about the beginning of the last war, when Amsterdam had become a place of perhaps 4,000 inhabitants, the manufacturing era which has since been so productive of growth and prosperity here, was just beginning. Several small manufacturing establishments had been started, and Mr. Morris foresaw the result, and immediately took steps to enter the broad field of real estate operations and dealing on a large scale in agricultural products. In that year (1860) he built the Morris Hall block, on Main street, which was then the largest building on the street. He bought and sold wool, flour, grain and other products, and in some instances by heavy and bold investments realized what were then considered great profits. During two years between 1860 and 1864 he also had a partnership in the flouring-mill of Greene & Morris. In 1864, with the object of still further extending his business operations, Mr. Morris organized the private banking company of Morris, Phillips & Company, which successfully carried on banking under that style until 1869, when a dissolution by limitation took place, and Mr. Morris has ever since conducted the bank ; it is now, however, under the immediate charge of his son John V. At the present time Mr. Morris and his sons, Francis and John V., are among the largest manufacturers of the city. They have three mills for the manufacture of knit goods, over which Francis Morris has immediate charge, and which are conducted with the characteristic push and success that have marked all the various operations of the senior. They also have a large paper mill, while Mr. Morris himself can read his own title to about 1,200 acres of valuable land, much of it within the city corporation, with many buildings in and out of the city. On his farms he has given considerable attention in later years to the breeding of choice stock, without any object of speculation, however. In politics Mr. Morris is a liberal Republican ; but he has always confined his aspirations in that direction to the narrowest possible limits. He has been solicited to accept political station, as well as his sons, but they have always declined, their large business interests as well as their personal

tastes, leading them in other directions. Mr. Morris held the office of supervisor of the town one term. He has been a director in the Farmers' National Bank for many years. His well known title of "Major" was gained in 1846, when Governor Marcy appointed him brigade inspector with that rank.

Though now on the declining side of life, Mr. Morris at sixty-seven years, is vigorous and active. It is only ten years since he assumed contracts for the construction of a large portion of the city water works, and the manner in which he performed that work has earned for him unstinted commendation, for its consummation was almost astonishing. For something like fourteen miles he opened the water-way, and much of it, particularly in the city itself, was through solid rock which had to be blasted with dynamite. The entire work, with the building of the great dam, was pushed by Mr. Morris with his characteristic energy and good judgment, and with such care at the same time that not a person was injured nor was any destruction caused in the city by the prolonged blasting. It was a task the successful completion of which might well be a source of pride to any man. The long business career of Mr. Morris, his unexampled success, his impregnable honesty, his firmness of character and belief in the right, his bluff and hearty friendship for those who have earned it, his public spirit and faith in his adopted city, his liberal support of all good causes—all these have given him a position in the community which amply fulfills what has been from boyhood his crowning ambition: to become a successful and well-rounded man.

Mr. Morris was married first on the 30th of May, 1848, to Rebecca Vedder, of Florida, Montgomery county, N. Y., and she died in 1860 at the age of thirty-two years, leaving five children, four of whom are living. In 1861 he married Anna F. Enders, also of Florida, who is still living. The eldest son, John V., was born May 4, 1849, and the younger on the 26th of April, 1851. Both of them, as has been intimated, are closely associated with their father in his large business operations, and share in his characteristics to a large degree.

INGERSOLL, JAMES, son of James, of Massachusetts, was born in Princetown, Schenectady county, N. Y., in 1793. He married Janet McClumpha, who was born in 1799 in the same town; they had

eleven children. In 1825 they moved to Charleston and purchased the old Wyckoff farm of 250 acres. He died in 1848 and his wife in 1878.

George, son of the above, was born in Charleston May 12, 1833, and received a common school education. He married January 9, 1867, Sarah J. Barlow, daughter of Moses Barlow, and this union has been blessed by one child named Nancy Ellen. At an early age he manifested a great desire for stock and as his father was then dead induced his mother to purchase some Bakewell sheep. Soon afterward he began to exhibit at the Montgomery county fairs. In 1871 he began exhibiting Leicesters and Cotswolds at the New York State Fairs and in 1881 he commenced breeding Shropshire sheep. Two years afterward he removed to Thorn Hedge farm, two miles north of Fonda, which he purchased and has brought up to a fine condition. In 1889 he exhibited at the Buffalo International Fair and won the silver cup valued at \$250. It was presented by the Shropshire Sheep Breeder's Association (England), for the best ram and five of his get, the latter to be under two years old and to have been bred by the exhibitor and also all to be owned by him. The competition on this occasion was very great, as there were sixteen competitors from six different states, namely: New Jersey, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and New York, and also Canada, but the Thorn Hedge flock secured the cup. This flock has since then won two gold medals at the New York State and International fairs. Mr. Ingersoll has never been defeated and has taken five hundred premiums, many of them "first." Mr. Ingersoll has twice visited Europe, not only to purchase stock, but to learn the best methods and has made personal selections from the choicest flocks in England. He has thus become a well-known importer as well as breeder and is commonly designated the great sheep man. On one of these trips he was accompanied by Secretary Woodward, of the State Agricultural Society. Thorn Hedge farm is beautifully situated on the plank road leading to Johnstown, and here he always has a hundred or more of thoroughbred stock. In addition to sheep culture Mr. Ingersoll is a very enterprising farmer, as may be seen by a visit to Thorn Hedge. He has avoided politics, preferring to devote himself to that specialty in which he has won both wealth and distinction, and loves his home too well to yield to any outside influences, but being a plain, outspoken man, he is always ready to give his opinions on any public question.



Alfred Delgraff.

DE GRAFF, ALFRED.—The De Graff family were among the early settlers of Schenectady, and Isaac De Graff was conspicuous in the revolutionary war. He was born November 16, 1756, and held the rank of major in the army. He died December 21, 1844. He had two sons, the eldest of whom was John I., who served with honor in the war of 1812. He served two terms as member of congress, and was honored by President Van Buren with the appointment of secretary of the treasury, which he was compelled to decline on account of his private affairs. He was one of the projectors of the Mohawk and Hudson railroad, and was otherwise conspicuous in the history of the valley. The second son was Jesse D. De Graff, born January 8, 1801, graduated at Union College, studied law and became a prominent attorney. He held the office of judge of the Common Pleas. On the 10th of August, 1830, he married Gazena Catherine Visscher, daughter of Frederick Herman Visscher, and they made the old Visscher mansion their permanent home. He died August 4, 1868. He was the father of four children: Susan, Charles Herman, Alfred and Isaac Howard. The first of these married William Farnham, of Troy; Charles and Howard died early, leaving Alfred, the subject of this notice, as the sole representative of the family. He was born on the old homestead where he now resides, and which he has greatly improved. On the 14th of October, 1869, he married Anna, daughter of Cornelius Phillips, a prominent farmer and business man of the 'own of Florida. Their children, Edith, Howard and Florence, are the sixth generation of the family to occupy the beautiful home in the Mohawk valley.

Besides the superintendence of his several large and valuable farms, Mr. De Graff is president of the Starin Silk Fabric Company, vice-president of the Fultonville National Bank, director of the Schenectady Bank, and is interested in various other enterprises. While taking a deep interest in politics he has never accepted a nomination for office.

Mrs. De Graff is descended from Col. Frederick Visscher, whose name has often appeared on earlier pages of this volume in connection with its revolutionary history. He was one of the commissioners to dispose of confiscated property after the war, and a member of the state convention for appreciating currency, restraining extortion, regulating prices and other duties. On the 22d of May, 1780, the Visscher mansion

was assaulted by a force of Indians and Tories. The inmates of the house were then the colonel, his mother, his sisters, two brothers and the servants. Their enemies numbered more than a hundred. The sisters fled, the brothers, John and Herman, were murdered and scalped, and the colonel himself was scalped and left for dead, but he revived and was able to carry his aged mother, who had escaped the fury of the savages, to a place of safety. Colonel Visscher afterwards found shelter with friends at Schenectady. Colonel Visscher was married to Gazena De Graff on the 22d of May, 1768, and he died on the 9th of June, 1809. He was the father of four sons and two daughters. Of the sons, Frederick Herman, the second son, became the owner of the Visscher mansion, and was the father of Gazena Catherine, before mentioned as the mother of Alfred De Graff. Thus were two of the historic families of the valley united.

DEAN, LUTHER L.—The subject of this sketch was born in Port Jackson (now the fifth ward of Amsterdam), on the 8th day of June, 1842. His father was Daniel Dean, a native of the town of Florida, Montgomery county, who passed most of his life as a shoe dealer in Port Jackson. He married Miss A. E. N. Lyon, of Essex county, N. J., and they had three children—the subject of this sketch, who was the eldest; one son who died in infancy; Malissa B., now the wife of N. C. Becker, of Amsterdam. Daniel Dean died on the 15th of June, 1879, and his widow is still living. Luther L. Dean's grandfather was Bethuel Dean, who married Margaret Phillips, of Florida, where they were among the early settlers.

Luther L. Dean was, at an early age, thrown upon his own resources. After a period at the district school he finished his studies in the Amsterdam Academy, which he attended until he was fourteen years of age (1856), when he entered the dry goods store of Gardiner Blood in Amsterdam and served as clerk four years. He then went into the Farmers' Bank and served as book-keeper four years and one month. These eight years of business experience and faithful application to the interests of his employers gave him confidence in himself and a reputation in the vicinity for industry and integrity which were of great value to him in after years.

Associating himself with Alonzo A. De Forest, then employed in the Farmers' Bank, they purchased the hardware stock of J. Warring & Son in Amsterdam. Mr. Dean took entire charge of this business and under his energetic and prudent management it was rapidly increased. At the end of fifteen months Mr. De Forest sold his interest to David McCowatt, the firm style becoming Dean & McCowatt, and the business was thus conducted two years and a quarter, when their lease expired. During this three years the business had been increased from \$10,000 to \$30,000, and the firm found it impossible to get a renewal of their lease. A sale was, therefore, made back to Warring & Son, Mr. McCowatt remaining with them in the business. This brings the record down to 1868, when Mr. Dean purchased the hardware stock of E. T. Leavenworth and associated with himself James P. Visscher, under the firm name of Dean & Visscher. This connection continued eight years until 1876, when Mr. Visscher died, and Mr. Dean took in John E. Larrabee as a partner; he had been for eight years a clerk in the store. The firm name for the next six years was L. L. Dean & Co., and when, in 1882, Mr. Dean sold out to Larrabee & Barnes, the business had been pushed up to \$60,000 a year. After twenty-five years of persevering industry in active business life, in which Mr. Dean had not only been eminently successful in a material sense, but had won from the entire community that unlimited confidence and warm friendship which follow only upon years of honorable effort, he retired for a brief rest of six months.

In January, 1883, Mr. Dean, associated with W. R. McCowatt, bought out Oscar F. Nelson and Willie B. Neilson, of the Metropolitan knitting-mill, and operated it under the firm name of McCowatt & Dean for three years, when he sold out to Thomas Little and George B. Stover. Meanwhile and some years earlier, the idle mill building which is now occupied by L. L. Dean & Co., had come into possession of the former hardware firm, and in 1866 Mr. Dean associated with himself his brother-in-law, James T. Clark, and his cousin, Isaac E. Lyon, of Newark, N. J., fitted up the mill with knitting machinery of the first class, making it one of the finest establishments of the kind in the country, gave it the name of "Park Knitting Mills," and have since carried on the business in a most successful manner. Such is a brief record of

Mr. Dean's business career, and it may be closed with the statement that in every sense it has been an honor to him.

Mr. Dean is an uncompromising Republican in politics, but has not aspired to office of any kind. He has, however, received many evidences of the confidence of the community through selection and appointment to various posts of trust and responsibility. He has held the office of trustee of the village three years; was assessor three years, and was one of the persons named in the original bill creating the sewer commission of Amsterdam, a body who built one of the most complete and effective sewer systems in the country, providing twenty-four miles of sewers at a cost of \$240,000, where engineers' estimates for fifteen miles reached \$268,000. Moreover, the bonds of the city were floated at three per cent., largely through the efforts of Mr. Dean, and in the face of often repeated predictions of moneyed men that it could not be done. Mr. Dean is one of the originators and a director of the Amsterdam City Bank; was one of the founders and vice-president of the Amsterdam Savings Bank, founded in the face of strong opposition, an institution which now has \$450,000 on deposit. He was one of the originators and a director in the Amsterdam Board of Trade; one of the originators and a director in the Amsterdam Library Association; treasurer of board of trustees and trustee of the Young Men's Christian Association, and has been its president at three different periods. He has been an elder in the Reformed Church many years and superintendent of its Sunday-school thirteen years.

This record speaks for itself and needs little comment from the biographer. Starting at the foot of the ladder in life, Mr. Dean has attained a position among the foremost representative citizens of the community.

Mr. Dean was married June 17, 1863, to Mary S. Clark, daughter of the late James A. Clark, of Amsterdam. They have one daughter Fanny, born September 26, 1876. They have had three sons, all of whom are deceased.

BLOOD, GARDINER, was born on the 12th day of March, 1829, near Mt. Morris, Livingston county, N. Y. He is a son of Alexander Blood, who was a native of Florida, Montgomery county, and went to Livingston county at the age of twenty-one years, among the

pioneers who took up and improved lands in this section. He was a respected citizen of that county and died there in 1831, when the subject of this sketch was only two years old. His wife was Nancy Clark, who was born at Hagaman's Mills, in the town of Amsterdam. Their children were three, two sons and one daughter. The elder son, Robert, is deceased.

After the death of his father, Gardiner Blood was brought back to Montgomery county, and from that time until he was eighteen years old, he lived the greater part of the time with his grandfather on what was known as the Blood farm, in the town of Glen. His education was the best he was able to acquire in the district school and later at the Amsterdam Academy. Leaving school at the age of eighteen, he went to Fultonville as clerk for Shuler, Cromwell & Co.; but three months later he entered the store of A. Mathews & Son, in Schenectady, where he remained four years, from 1847 to 1851, winning the regard and confidence of his employers by his faithfulness to their interests and his integrity. In 1851 he removed to Fultonville and formed the partnership of Blood & Conyne, general merchants, which relationship continued until 1854. Mr. Blood next located as a merchant at Syracuse, but three months later came to Amsterdam, bought out a dry goods store and conducted it with success for ten years. In 1864 he joined in partnership with the late James H. Schuyler in the then young knit goods business. The manufactory was situated on the same premises now occupied by Blood & Stewart. This firm became one of the most successful and enterprising in the place, and they carried on the business together in harmony for twenty-four years, until 1888. During this long period, great advances were made in the methods employed in the industry, and the firm of Schuyler & Blood was commonly found in the fore front of the business. Mr. Schuyler died in 1885, but his interest in the mills remained in the estate until 1888, as above noted, being represented by his son-in-law, John K. Stewart, who purchased his father-in-law's interest in the year last named. (See succeeding sketch of Mr. Stewart.) The mills of Blood & Stewart are now among the largest and most successful in Amsterdam. The product is wholly men's and women's cotton underwear, and about 400 operatives are employed. He has also been a partner in a knitting mill with W. R.

McCowatt since 1888. Mr. Blood's business capacity and executive ability are fully understood and recognized by his fellow-citizens, while his staunch integrity and many sterling qualities have given him an enviable position in the community. He is public spirited and holds the welfare of the city as of prime importance; he was made second vice-president of the Board of Trade; has held the office of president of the village one term; was assessor for three years; water commissioner three years, 1881-84. He is an unswerving Republican in politics and gives judicious support to his party.

Mr. Blood has been a member of the Second Presbyterian church for about thirty years. He was married in 1855 to Gazena Elizabeth Putman, daughter of Cornelius H. Putman, of Glen. They have had two children, a son and a daughter; the son is deceased. The daughter is the wife of P. H. Bennett, of Amsterdam.*

STEWART, JOHN KNOX, was born in the town of Perth, Fulton county, N. Y., on the 20th of October, 1853. His father was William Stewart, also a native of Perth, who came to Amsterdam in the year 1860 and established a knitting mill; this was burned in 1866, and on its site a paper-mill was erected, which he carried on successfully until his death in 1872. William Stewart married Catherine Knox, of Galway, N. Y., and she died in 1882. They had two children, the subject of this sketch and a daughter. During his life in Amsterdam Mr. Stewart gained an enviable reputation as a business man, and for his integrity, public spirit and admirable qualities.

John Knox Stewart came to Amsterdam with his parents, and received his education in the academy, which he left in 1871, to take charge of his father's estate, then comprising the paper-mill above mentioned. In 1877 he married Sarah E. Schuyler, daughter of the late James H. Schuyler, of Amsterdam. Mr. Schuyler was among the leading manufacturers of the place, and long associated with Gardiner Blood in the knitting mills, as described in the preceding sketch. In 1885 Mr. Stewart entered the knitting-mill office of Schuyler & Blood, in aid of his father-in-law, whose health had begun to decline, and continued in that capacity until his father-in-law's death, which occurred in 1885.

* Mr. Blood died November 29, 1892.

In December, 1888, he bought the one-half interest formerly owned by Mr. Schuyler, and has since continued as a member of the firm of Blood & Stewart. Though still a young man, Mr. Stewart has shown business capacity of an exceptional character, while by his personal traits he has firmly established himself in the business and social life of the place. A Republican in politics, his ability and personal popularity led to his nomination and election to the State assembly in 1890, where he served his constituents to their entire satisfaction. He has been a director of the Farmer's National bank of Amsterdam since 1890, and was one of the original sewer commissioners, holding that office three years. He is a member and treasurer of the First Presbyterian church.

Mr. Stewart was married in 1877 to Sarah E. Schuyler, daughter of James H. Schuyler, before mentioned, and they have two sons.

SERVISS, JOHN G., was born in the town of Florida, Montgomery county, N. Y., on the 1st of May, 1847. His father was Alexander Serviss, who was also a native of Florida, and a leading farmer of the county. His mother was Nancy Sherburne of the same town. The grandfather of John G. was Lawrence Serviss, who was a man of strong character, a progressive and prominent farmer. He was conspicuous in the organization of the Whig party, and in many ways a leading citizen. His wife was Mary Bigham, a native of Scotland. Their children were Alexander, George, Helen who married into the Voorhees family, and Elizabeth, who married a member of the historic Vanderveer family. Going back still another generation, we find that the great grandfather of John G. was a revolutionary soldier and came to the Mohawk Valley very early in its history. Alexander Serviss died May 19, 1887, in Florida, and his widow is still living. The homestead in the town of Florida is still in the family.

John G. Serviss was given excellent educational advantages and he improved them to the utmost. Leaving the district school at the age of sixteen years, he attended the Amsterdam Academy one year, and the following year studied in the academy at Jonesville, Saratoga county. He then completed the classical course in the Fort Edward Collegiate Institute, leaving that institution when he was twenty years old.

He had already formed the determination to follow teaching as his life work and began at Minaville in his native town, where he remained three years. On the 18th of August, 1873, he received the appointment of principal in Union School No. 11 in Amsterdam. This position he filled with eminent satisfaction to the community for fourteen years. Long before the expiration of this protracted period, Mr. Serviss had demonstrated that he possessed both natural and acquired qualifications as a teacher, and was prolific in advanced practical ideas which he knew how to apply to his profession. Under his direction the school became one of exceptional standing, and the degree of satisfaction with which his efforts were received by those having the educational interests of the place in charge, is shown by his appointment on the 1st of September, 1887, as superintendent of that school, which responsible position he still holds. In his present capacity Professor Serviss has found a still wider field of activity, and has made himself known over a broad extent of territory as one of the progressive educators of the state. Quick to discover the merit or demerit of new methods for the advancement of education, he adopts all that seems good, and by his good judgment and practical knowledge and sound common sense, applies them successfully to his purposes. Neither is he wanting in originality in his chosen field and many educational improvements which have been adopted in Amsterdam and elsewhere are the result of his thought and study. Since his appointment to the superintendency two new school buildings have been erected, and every step of this progress and extension has received his untiring care and zeal, and felt the influence of his practical wisdom and prudence. To-day he is in the confidence of the community, and the feeling that the school system could not be in better hands is almost universal.

Professor Serviss has received ample evidence of the esteem and confidence of his fellow citizens. In 1884 he was elected superintendent of the Second Presbyterian Church Sabbath-school, and filled the position until the founding of the Immanuel Presbyterian Church, when he was chosen one of the elders of the last named church and still holds the office. In March, 1890, he was elected secretary of the Amsterdam Board of Trade, held the office two years and resigned on account of the

multiplicity of his other duties. In that body he has been chairman of the educational committee since the organization of the board. He was chosen chairman of the committee of the tri-county educational council, which drafted the course of study for the schools of the three counties, Montgomery, Herkimer and Fulton. He has served on several examining boards for the United States service at West Point and Annapolis. In January, 1890, he was elected one of the trustees of the Amsterdam Y. M. C. A., a life office in a board that has the higher charge of the affairs of that beneficent organization. On the 1st of December, 1891, he was elected trustee of the Amsterdam Library Association. In all of these various stations Professor Serviss has met the requirements to the utmost and won the confidence of his fellows. Wholly self-reliant, careful in forming his judgment and tenacious in the support of what he deems to be right, with executive ability of a high order, he makes himself a useful servant of the best interests of the community, and has made for himself a record of which he has every reason to be proud.

Professor Serviss was married on the 25th of September, 1872, to Lottie S. Bussing, of Minaville, only daughter of Harmon Bussing and Margaret Schuyler. They have two children, Schuyler B. and Florence.

BRAGDON, HENRY S., was born in Sullivan, Hancock county, Me., January 28, 1815, and was the son of Jonathan and Mary (Welch) Bragdon. His early life was spent in his native town, where he learned the trade of stonecutter. He left when about twenty years of age to go to Portland where he cut stone for two years, losing all that he earned during that time by the failure of his employer. He then came to New York city where he remained but a short time, cutting stone used in the construction of Trinity church. Leaving New York he came to Tribes Hill and thence to Canajoharie, where he followed his trade for a few years, and then opened a dry goods store. He was very fortunate in having a large quantity of goods at the breaking out of the war, and on them he made large profits. In politics Mr. Bragdon was a staunch Republican, and was always ready to assist in public matters whenever called upon. In his business cares Mr. Bragdon

Ruby of Albany, by whom he had two sons and one daughter; third, to Atlanta Boutelle Allen, in 1834, who bore him three sons and four daughters. Atlanta Allen was a daughter of William Allen of Townsend, Vt., who, with his father, served in the revolutionary war.

William N. Johnston, son of George G., attended the common school and also a preparatory course in the Canajoharie Academy. He enlisted, November 8, 1861, in the 102d N. Y. Volunteers, was promoted to first lieutenant, then to captain, to assistant inspector-general of the brigade, and at the close of the war was breveted major for gallant and meritorious conduct in the field. He served with his regiment in the Shenandoah campaign and the army of the Potomac in the east, and the army of the Cumberland in the west.

After his return from the war Mr. Johnston attended Beloit College for about two years, then began the study of law, and in 1870 was admitted to the bar. He practiced law until 1876, when he was elected county clerk and re-elected in 1879. After serving six years as county clerk he was appointed at different times to responsible positions under the state administration. In 1888 he engaged in the stone business under the firm name of Johnston & Shaper, which was afterwards merged in the Mohawk Valley Stone Company, of which company Mr. Johnston is now president. In all the relations of life—business, political and social, Mr. Johnston has been governed by high motives and won the confidence and esteem of all by his upright and honorable course.

In 1872 he married Elizabeth, daughter of William and Ann Eliza (Gauley) Dolsen of New York. They have five children: George Albert and William Allen, students of Union College; Harry Ferris, Agnes Atlanta and Edwin Granville. Mr. Johnston has always been an active Democrat and is now serving his third term as supervisor of the town.

JOHNSTON, ALBERT J., eldest son of George G. and Atlanta (Allen) Johnston, was born at Palatine Bridge, January 31, 1839. He passed his early life in his native town attending the local schools, graduating at the age of eighteen from the Canajoharie Academy. Soon after leaving school he went to Fort Yuma, Arizona Territory,

where his half brother, Capt. George A. Johnston, was interested in a line of steamboats that transported provisions from the Pacific coast up the Healy River to Fort Yuma, which was at that time a United States military post. This was a passenger as well as a freight line and Albert J. occupied the position of assistant manager of the line. After filling this position three years he returned overland to Palatine Bridge, where he commenced the study of law and was admitted to practice the profession in the United States courts, and also filled the position of deputy sheriff for a number of years. In the summer of 1869 Gov. Don Pio Pico, one of the last Spanish governors of California, accompanied by Capt. Geo. A. Johnston and wife, visited Palatine Bridge and persuaded Albert J. to return to California, where he became secretary to the governor, residing at Los Angeles, Cal. He had entire charge of the governor's business affairs a little over two years, but he finally accepted the position of under sheriff of Los Angeles county, the sheriff being at that time Mr. Rowland, who did not perform any of the active duties of the office. In 1874 Albert J. was the leader of the party that captured Tiburcio Vasquez, the noted Mexican outlaw who was the most notorious and successful bandit of California and for whose arrest the state had offered large rewards. Soon after this Mr. Johnston removed to Denver, Colo., and became interested in different mines at Leadville, Colo. He resided at Denver till 1886, when, being taken sick, in his attempt to reach his native town, died on the route. He is buried in Palatine, and in his death Montgomery county lost a son that home and abroad made lifelong friends and was always a cheerful companion and associate of those he met in his path of life.

VAN DENBERGH, WALTER L., was born on the paternal farm in Cocksackie, where he remained until his sixteenth year. His father's ancestors were of Holland descent, and both the father and the subject of this sketch inherited the physical vigor and the tenacity of purpose which characterize that race. His taste for literature early asserted itself, and whether as a clerk in a country store, or occupied in the forwarding business, he continued his studies and made good the deficiency in his early education. His experience as a forwarder



Henry Luther.

for many years, both in New York and in Montgomery county, as well as in other branches of trade, gave him a large acquaintance, and established his character as an energetic and discreet business man. In after years when engaged in the practice of the law, many who had been customers, became clients. Leaving commercial pursuits, he read law with Frothingham Fish, was admitted in 1861, and soon took rank with the solid members of the Montgomery county bar. After practicing successfully at Fultonville for several years, he removed to Amsterdam, where he established a still higher reputation in the profession. He married, in 1846, Alice Fish, youngest daughter of Howland and Eliza (Frothingham) Fish, who died March 15, 1890, greatly mourned by all her acquaintances.

Mr. Van Denbergh's father, Robert I. Van Denbergh, was born January 29, 1791, at the homestead at Cocksackie, where his ancestors had then lived for about a century. He was educated at Union College, read law, and during the remainder of his life devoted himself to agriculture. He married Laura R. Reed of the same place, and of that union four children reached mature years: Angelica, who married Peter I. Philip of Columbia county; Isabella, who resides at Cocksackie; Walter L., above noted; and Eliza, wife of Conrad A. Hotelling of Newark, N. J. The Van Denberghs rendered loyal military services to their country during the Revolution.

LUTHER, HENRY. — The subject of this sketch was a son of Gideon Luther, and was born at Ballston Spa, N. Y., on the 5th day of January, 1831. His opportunities for securing education were confined to the district schools, and when he had reached his majority, in 1852, he went to Cleveland, O., where he was employed five years. At the end of that period he removed to Kentucky and there engaged in the clothing business, which he continued successfully until the breaking out of the war. Returning to his old home he remained there until 1870, when he removed to Amsterdam and continued in active business life until his death, which occurred on the 15th of December, 1881. In Amsterdam Mr. Luther's excellent business qualifications were fully recognized, while he was esteemed for his integrity

and uprightness. He filled the office of president of the village in 1876 and was otherwise honored by his fellow-citizens.

Mr. Luther was first married, in February, 1872, to Mrs. Melissa Wilson (Ford). Mrs. Luther died on the 6th of April, 1878. Mr. Luther married second, on the 9th of October, 1879, Mary, daughter of George Briggs, of Ballston Spa. They have two children, Henry, jr, born October 21, 1880, and a daughter, born after Mr. Luther's death, March 6, 1882, and named Melanie.

BROWER, HENRY TEN EYCK.—The Brower family bears an historic interest in the Mohawk valley. Harmon Brower was born in Schenectady in 1718, and settled at Stone Arabia. He married Margaret Ecker and they had eight children. Harmon was a son of William and Maria (Henmen) Brower. Wilhelmus was one of the eight children of Harmon Brower and was born at Stone Arabia in 1755. He purchased the homestead farm of his father in 1784 and built a log house in the woods. The first two dollars earned was by burning trees to make a clearing and selling the ashes. Those silver dollars are kept in the family as relics, their date being 1773, under the reign of Charles III. of Spain. Wilhelmus married Jane Gray, and after years of labor and thrift he built a large two-story frame house, which is still used as a tenant house and is in a good state of preservation, though ninety years old. Wilhelmus died in 1841. He had one son, Harmon W., who was born at Stone Arabia October 18, 1781, the day before Cornwallis's surrender. He married Maria, daughter of Captain Henry Ten Eyck. The latter was an officer under General La Fayette, who took him from Harvard College to place him in the American army, and he was wounded in action at Stony Point. Harmon W. Brower graduated from Union College in 1804 and was clerk for Judge Aaron Haring at Johnstown for seven years, after which he settled on the home farm in Mohawk with his father. He was a man of strong literary tastes and it is remembered of him that he paid \$150 and three horses for a set of the Edinburgh Encyclopedia. In politics he was a Whig and by his learning and natural qualifications was prominent in the community. He was the father of five children—William, born Octo-

ber 18, 1821, died in 1865; Henry Ten Eyck, born February 11, 1824; Cornelius, died when three years old, and two daughters who died in infancy. Harmon W. Brower died June 21, 1846, and his wife on April 21, 1833.

Henry Ten Eyck Brower, the grandson of Wilhelmus, is a graduate of Union college, has always lived on the home farm, and is a conspicuous citizen of the town. In 1868 he erected an elegant and spacious brick residence and has added several hundred acres of land to the estate. During the war period he held the office of supervisor two terms and faithfully discharged the duties of the position. He married, January 8, 1868, Alice, daughter of Henry Mathise. They have two children, Harmon T. E. and Arthur H., both of whom reside with their parents. Mr. Brower's farm contains a burial plot on which four generations of the family are laid to rest.

McCOWATT, WALTER R.—The subject of this sketch was born in Paisley, Scotland, January 23, 1838, and four years later came to the United States with his mother, his father having preceded them two years. The family first settled in New York city, where the son was educated in the public schools, finishing in the Amsterdam Academy after the removal of the family to this place. Entering upon a business career while yet a young man, Mr. McCowatt first carried on a merchant tailoring establishment, and a little later formed one of the firm of McCowatt, Nelson & Wendell, coal dealers, his partners being Oscar F. Nelson and the late Harmon Wendell. In order to broaden his field of business operations he joined with Luther L. Dean in the manufacture of knit goods, under the firm name of McCowatt & Dean, which continued until 1885, when Thomas Liddle and George B. Stover took Mr. Dean's interest in the manufactory — the firm continuing under the style of W. R. McCowatt & Co., as Mr. McCowatt's estate owns the controlling interest. From the time of his entering upon this line of industry Mr. McCowatt made its every detail a constant and persevering study and became before his death one of the best informed and thoroughly practical manufacturers in this business which forms so large a part of the industry of Amsterdam. Developing the

habits of prudence and persistent industry which he had early formed, and bringing to bear his natural qualifications of sagacity, executive ability and sound judgment, Mr. McCowatt became long before his untimely death one of the foremost manufacturers of the city and enjoyed the respect and confidence of the entire community in the broadest sense. This statement is proven by the fact that he was made president of the Knit Goods Manufacturers' Association of Amsterdam upon its formation and held the position until his death; he was also prominent in the State association. Upon the formation of the Board of Water Commissioners of the city his fellow-citizens chose him as one of its members and the Common Council of 1886 reappointed him. He served one term as president of the board and was treasurer at the time of his death, having contributed invaluable service in the important work of giving the city pure water. He also held the office of trustee of the village previous to its organization as a city, and was president of the village from 1879 to 1881, serving three terms. In all of these various capacities Mr. McCowatt demonstrated his possession of all those qualities which constitute the public spirited, able and honorable citizen, gaining the fullest approbation of his associates and the community at large. An extensive reader upon all topics of current interest, his general intelligence covered a wide range, while his natural ability as a ready and forcible speaker gave him a degree of influence over others that was unusual. This influence was ever exercised for the best good of the greatest number. His business career was founded upon principles of integrity and uprightness and his character was in every sense above reproach. He was prominent in the Board of Trade and contributed much to the good work of that body. A member and constant attendant at the Presbyterian Church, Mr. McCowatt lived a life that was an honor to himself and his family and a model for the young, whose interests he made his own. His loss to the city and particularly to the family whom he so cherished was one that cannot be replaced.

Mr. McCowatt married September 26, 1865, Jennie A. Van Wormer of Amsterdam. They had seven children, four of whom are deceased. The survivors are Horace H., born December 2, 1870; Jennie M., born May 2, 1876; and Walton C., born April 21, 1883.



G. C. Simpson

SIMPSON, GEORGE C.—The subject of this sketch was born June 10, 1817, near the present city of Amsterdam, and was of Scotch parentage. His father, George B. Simpson, died in 1818, while his mother, Helen Stuart McKay, reached the advanced age of eighty-six.

His education was limited to the few advantages to be derived from the district schools of that day, and at an early age he was thrown upon his own resources; but he happily possessed a good constitution, clear head, and industry.

He learned the saddlery and harness trade, and after becoming master of the calling, opened a shop in Fultonville in 1843. In 1851 he opened another shop in Fonda, in which place he built his home, on Prospect Hill, where he lived until his death, which occurred March 28, 1891.

While residing in Fultonville he married Miss Lucy T. Gardener. Six children were born to them, three of whom died in infancy. April 25, 1867, Mrs. Simpson died, leaving three children — Helen M., John H., and Jeane G.

John H., the only son who survived infancy, was for many years an invalid, devoting most of his time to study. He was one of the best informed men of the county, and died November 10, 1887, aged thirty-three years.

In 1867 Mr. Simpson, having acquired a reasonable competency, retired from business and devoted his time to the care of his estate, and also always finding plenty to do as a neighbor and citizen.

When he settled in Fonda he immediately identified himself with the interests of the town. Whether it was the consolidation of schools, to repair or build school-houses or churches, or any other work in which the general weal was concerned, he was always ready with level head, a liberal and working hand, laboring as if it were for himself alone. For eighteen years he served as trustee of the public school, and was loan commissioner for many years.

He was strongly interested in politics, but never an office-seeker. At first a Whig and then a Republican, he was highly esteemed among his political associates and the leading men of the county.

During the Rebellion he served on all the war committees for the town of Mohawk, and rendered valuable service in filling the quota of men called for, and with others insisting that as the large bounties were voted they should be collected and paid, so that when the war closed the town of Mohawk owed no bounty debt.

While leaning strongly toward Universalism in his belief, he nevertheless did much in support of other churches. If he had any creed, it was as broad as humanity. He was also a radical temperance man, sparing neither time nor money in support of the cause.

George C. Simpson was a constant reader, a careful thinker, a close observer, well informed on all subjects, and a man of strong convictions and unbending integrity. He fearlessly supported that which he believed to be right and as earnestly opposed that which he believed to be wrong. His life was exemplary and pure.

At the age of seventy-four he passed peacefully away and was laid to rest among his beloved kindred in the Fultonville cemetery.

FONDA, HENRY A., of Milton, Pa., president of the First National Bank of that place and an enterprising and public spirited citizen, was born in the town of Fonda, Montgomery county, N. Y., which town derived its name from one of his ancestors. After graduating from the district schools of his native place, he entered the Homer, N. Y., Academy, where he devoted two years to the study of the higher branches of English. The science of engineering possessed an attraction for him and at the age of seventeen he adopted it as his life work, entering upon his labors as an assistant in an engineering corps on the Utica and Syracuse railroad. From this road he passed in a short time to the Erie, on which he held at first the position of rod-man, but later on that of superintendent of construction on the section between Corning and Hornellsville. In different capacities, some of them involving great responsibilities, he remained with the Erie road about six years. Upon leaving it he engaged with the Canandaigua and Niagara Falls road, as superintendent of construction and repairs. After filling this post two years he removed to Pennsylvania and accepted the position of superintendent of construction on the Catawissa railroad, then thirty-five miles

in extent. After being promoted to the position of assistant superintendent, and being advanced from that office to the responsible post of general superintendent of the road, he closed his connection with it (then of five years' duration), to accept the office of general superintendent of the Elmira and Williamsport railroad, to the duties of which he devoted the ensuing three years. In 1864 he became general superintendent of the Lackawanna and Bloomsburg railroad, then under control of the Delaware and Western Railroad Company.

After serving this corporation five years he took a contract to build a railroad from Carbondale to Susquehanna. This contract being completed he took service with the Delaware and Hudson railroad, as general superintendent, and was placed in charge of all the lines of this large corporation from Carbondale, Pa., to Whitehall and Rutland, Vt. At the expiration of four years' steady service under this company, he retired from active duty and took up his residence in Philadelphia, where he spent several years. In 1887 he removed to Milton, where he established a permanent residence. Having definitely relinquished engineering pursuits, he turned his attention to farming and stock-raising. He is now the owner of a large stock farm and residence on Cayuga lake, near Aurora, and also of five extensive stock farms in the vicinity of Milton. His barn on the largest farm on Cayuga lake is the finest in the state.

Mr. Fonda has paid particular attention to the breeding of Hambletonian stock and has raised many notable specimens of this strain. His success in this later departure in farming and stock-raising is extremely gratifying to him. In them he finds agreeable and interesting relaxation, which is both welcome and beneficial after so many years of active and absorbing railroad life. Since 1888 Mr. Fonda has been president of the First National Bank of Milton, and he divides his time between his duties as a financier and the agreeable occupation of a "gentleman farmer." His habits are those of a thorough business man, everything confided to his charge being attended to thoroughly and with the strictest regard for the interest of others, as well as respect for their rights.

At a time when real estate in Chicago was low in value and on the rise, he invested largely in property in that city, and has reaped a rich reward as a result of his enterprise and sagacity in this field. After the disastrous conflagration which in 1880 destroyed so large an amount

of property in Milton, Mr. Fonda promptly loaned quite an amount of money to rebuild the place, and through this wise and timely action on his part it has rapidly recovered from the damaging blow it sustained, and is making rapid strides to a more prosperous and advanced condition. His public spirited action in this and other matters has had a weighty influence upon the business interests of Milton, and has earned for him a reward in the general prosperity which gratifies him far more than any pecuniary advantage he may eventually reap in consequence. Mr. Fonda started in life without means and has reached his present financial independence and leading position as a citizen, solely through his own unaided enterprise and ability. So far from this fact operating to close his heart to the claims of his less fortunate fellow-men, it seems to exert just the contrary effect, for it is well known that many who were struggling have been helped by his generosity, extended willingly and from a sense of duty as a steward of wealth, rather than through any desire for notoriety or subsequent reward. Men gifted with such admirable qualities raise the standard of life and living, both for themselves and all who dwell within reach of their influence, and may justly be styled the pillars of the community—the strong supports of the higher ideas of duty and citizenship prevailing in a free and enlightened country. Every dollar of Mr. Fonda's wealth has been amassed by straightforward business operations. Disdaining sharp practices and resolutely declining them, he nevertheless acquired means far in excess of many who descended to petty if not more culpable methods.

He lives in a manner commensurate with his ample fortune and social position, and not the least of his satisfaction is the consciousness that his success with all that it brings, is the outcome of an upright business life. His farms adjoining the town of Milton, containing in all 700 acres, are models, and upon them is to be found some of the finest stock in the state. In addition to his connection with the First National Bank, he is a director in several other banks, and also of the Elmira and Williamsport railroad company. He has never accepted any political office nor had any aspirations in that direction, but held a commission as colonel on Governor Pollock's staff during his term as governor of the state of Pennsylvania. Modest and retiring in disposition, he avoids rather than courts notoriety, although never withholding his name or in-

fluence from any enterprise having for its object the benefit of mankind. His charities are bestowed quietly, and to many he has been a true friend in times of panic and distress.

Mr. Fonda married, on January 1, 1862, Miss Caroline Louisa Brown, daughter of Isaac Brown, a prominent merchant of Milton. His only child, a son, Lawrence B. Fonda, who was educated at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, has recently joined the Sons of the Revolution through that patriotic record which has been so faithfully won by his ancestors. Mr. Fonda's grandfather (Henry Fonda) served as a captain in the war of 1812, and his great-grandfather (Adam Fonda) was lieutenant-colonel under General Herkimer at the Oriskany battle. Adam Fonda was a son of Douw Fonda, who was slain by the Tories during Sir John Johnson's raid in 1780. What a debt our country owes to this ancient patriotism !

WEMPLE, EDWARD—The subject of this sketch comes from ancestry noted for their sturdy characteristics, their devotion to principle and their love of liberty. Far back in the history of Holland his forefathers lived and labored for the good of their country and humanity, and their enterprise was not confined to their native land. They sought other and wider fields for advancement of civilization and human progress. Large numbers of them sought this free land, where they found ample room and opportunity to develop material resources, and where they labored with strong hands and brave hearts to subdue the forests, establish homes, and aid in the upbuilding of the great citadel of freedom. They were also the first to establish free schools in this country and to introduce the noble sentiment that all men are born free and with equal rights. The Mohawk valley was the theatre where these sturdy emigrants did their whole duty, and its later pre-eminence as a progressive and well governed locality is due very largely to them.

In the year 1712 a Johannes Wemple, an ancestor of the comptroller, was one of the company to whom Queen Anne granted the Caughnawaga patent, which included grants of lands in the Mohawk valley. Other Wemples came from their old homes in Holland and settled in this new region. Inspired with the principles of civil and religious lib-

erty they built school houses and planted churches, and caused the waste and desolate places to bloom like a garden all along the now rich valley of the Mohawk. More than a century ago a Mr. Wemple was one of the founders of the old Dutch church of Fonda, which stood among the earliest landmarks of religious devotion in this country. This ancient church was taken down a few years ago.

The Wemples were known for their patriotism here. During the old French and English wars they bravely defended their homes against the invaders, and when the storm of the Revolution broke with all its violence over our shores they heartily espoused the cause of the struggling colonists. And no one rejoiced more truly than did the Wemples of those revolutionary days, who were living in the Mohawk valley, when they at length saw the sunshine of liberty gleaming through clouds and darkness, and the star spangled banner of Washington and Adams and Jefferson unfurled over this new and rising Republic.

On the 23d of October, 1843, Edward Wemple first saw the light of day in the old home at Fultonville, N. Y. At the common schools of his native village he was taught the rudiments of his earliest education, and was afterwards a student of the Ashland Academy in Greene county, and of the Schenectady Union School, where he was prepared for a collegiate course. He learned readily, and was a diligent student; hence he was ready for college at an earlier age than most other boys. Entering Union College, then in a flourishing condition, he was graduated from there in 1866, at the age of twenty-three. He was not long in deciding upon the choice of a profession, for during his college course the study of political and legal science seems to have possessed special charms for him. On leaving college he entered on the study of law in the office of W. L. Van Denbergh.

Mr. Wemple's father was at that time largely engaged in the foundry business at Fultonville, and needed the assistance of an active, educated young man to assist him in carrying on the management of the concern, and so he persuaded his son Edward to relinquish his legal studies and enter into partnership with him. It just suited the active temperament of our young law student, and was an agreeable change from the close sedentary habits of professional life. He soon acquired a thorough, practical knowledge of the foundry business, and on the death of his

father in 1869 he continued it with increasing success down to the present. At the same time he was diligently employing his leisure moments in the study of political and state affairs in which he was to become so prominent, exhibiting those qualifications which belong to the right man in the right place.

Mr. Wemple entered political life as an ardent young advocate of the principles of the Democratic party, to which he has always adhered with an uncompromising spirit. He had scarcely reached the age of thirty before he was chosen president of the village of Fultonville, in 1873, and from that period we may date the beginning of his useful, active, and honorable career as a popular political leader. He next filled the office of supervisor of his native town, in the prosperity of which he has always taken a lively interest. This position he held during the years 1874, 1875 and 1876. In 1876 he was elected as a Democrat to the Legislature over David W. Shurter (Rep.), and N. T. De Graff (Pro.), and served acceptably on the committees of railroads, villages and the library. He was re-elected to the Legislature in 1877. Increasing in popularity, his party nominated him four years after the close of his legislative term in 1882, for member of Congress from the Twentieth district, and though the district is a strong Republican one, he was triumphantly elected over Hon. George West, of Ballston, the Republican candidate.

His congressional record formed a bright page in his history, and demonstrated his capacity as a practical man, whose highest aim is not to serve party alone, but the country at large. He served with credit on the committee on public buildings and grounds, and also on that of railroads and canals. He advocated the measures for securing better mail facilities, and took a leading part in the welfare of the veterans of the Union army, pushing forward a prompt settlement of their just claims. He also presented the measure of giving the president the power to veto separate objectionable items in appropriation bills without killing the whole bill. The justice of this congressional act must be apparent to all classes, irrespective of party. But one of the grandest measures for which Mr. Wemple contended till it was successfully accomplished, was the securing of an appropriation to erect a noble monument at Schuylerville, to commemorate the glorious and decisive

victory over the British on the ever memorable field of Saratoga. All patriotic citizens will ever join in honoring him for his works and labors of love in a cause so worthy and just. Mr. Wemple has always been a strong friend of the Erie canal, and while in Congress he earnestly contended that the federal government should do its duty and provide for the maintenance and repair of the free artificial waterways of this State, which form an indispensable link in the chain of navigation from the great West to tidewater, just as it provides for the maintenance and repair of far less important free natural waterways in all sections of the country; and that without affecting in the least the jurisdiction of the State.

Retiring from his congressional life with well-earned laurels, Mr. Wemple sought the quietude of his beautiful home at Fultonville, among the friends of his youthful days, and in the enjoyment of domestic scenes. But he was not long to remain in the walks of private life. In 1885 he was elected to the state senate from the 18th district, composed of the counties of Saratoga, Fulton, Hamilton and Schenectady. His opponent was the Hon. Austin A. Yates, and the contest was carried on with great determination on both side. Mr. Wemple won by a majority of twenty, and it was a striking instance of his remarkable popularity among his friends and neighbors, that he should thus succeed in so strong a Republican district, and with so powerful an adversary as Judge Yates. As a state senator Mr. Wemple added additional lustre to his already well-established reputation as an able, upright and patriotic citizen. He took an active part in the leading measures which came before that body, and while he always endeavored to sustain the honor of his party, he at the same time tried to advance the interests of the commonwealth.

In the fall of 1887 Mr. Wemple was nominated for state comptroller, and was elected by a majority of 15,374, the highest vote received by any candidate on the ticket, and entered upon his duties January 1, 1888. The affairs of this high and responsible office were conducted by Mr. Wemple in a manner that reflected the highest credit. Since his retirement from this office in 1891, after four years of service, Mr. Wemple has passed the greater part of his time at his beautiful and historic home on the banks of the Mohawk at Fultonville.

The secret of Mr. Wemple's success as a politician lies in his broad intelligence, his exceptional executive ability and his strict integrity. He is regarded by his party as one who is always true to his political principles, strong in his conviction of duty, and an able exponent of the old Jeffersonian doctrines. As a man he is plain in manners, affable, and easily approachable, and popular wherever known for his geniality.

Mr. Wemple married Adelaide F. Groot, daughter of Simeon C. Groot of Schenectady. Her mother was of German ancestry, and her father of Dutch. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Wemple are Grace Adelaide, born August 12, 1869; Alice Maud, born June 6, 1871; Ralph Clancy, born December 2, 1872, died in infancy; and Edward Guy, born May 21, 1875, and now in the military school at Sing Sing.

WHITE JOSEPH N.—The ancestry of Dr. White is traced back to the early settlement of Worcester county, Mass. The town records of Mendon, in that county, show that in 1668, a vote was passed "to build a meeting house with all speed and to locate it near Joseph White's saw pit on the highest part of the land." In the following year the name is also found in an agreement settling the Rev. Mr. Emerson as minister in that town. Joseph White was a sergeant in the King Philip war, where he had charge of a garrison of soldiers. The record has not been traced continuously to the present time; but we know that Jacob White was born August 10, 1754. His son, Joseph, was born April 8, 1785, and he was the father of Joseph N., the subject of this sketch. Joseph N. White was born in the town of Deerfield, Oneida county, N. Y., July 4, 1816, his father having located there previously. His mother was Lucy Parke, who was born in Norwich, Conn. He received an academical and classical education at the Holland Patent Academy, the Huron (O.) Institute and the Oberlin College. He studied medicine, beginning in 1849, under the supervision of Drs. Taliaferro and Buckner of Cincinnati, and was graduated from the Medical College of Ohio in 1854. During the period of his study he occupied the position of resident physician in a large private hospital maintained by his preceptors. Dr. White was induced to enter upon a careful and thorough investigation of the claims of homœopathy

through the influence of the late Dr. Pulte of Cincinnati, a well known medical author. The result was the adoption of that system and thenceforth he pursued it with characteristic energy and tenacity.

In the spring of 1855 Dr. White settled in Amsterdam, where he soon gained an extensive practice. In early years the physicians who practiced in the homœopathic school occupied a position professionally that was vastly different from their present standing, and Dr. White was the first to maintain in the courts the legal rights of physicians of that school, and in 1870, after ten years of litigation, secured a final and favorable decision in the Court of Appeals, which was cited in the courts of other states and reported in English and French journals.

Dr. White became a member of the Albany County Homœopathic Medical Society in 1867, and was elected its president in 1869, in which latter year he was also delegate to the American Institute of Homœopathy. He was one of the founders of the Montgomery County Homœopathic Medical Society (1869), having issued the call for its first meeting, and was one of its officers during most of the subsequent years until his death. He was also a member of the Medical Society of Northern New York and of the State Homœopathic Society.

Dr. White was an earnest Republican in politics, but not a partisan or a candidate for public office. His first vote was for Harrison in 1840, and the last time he left his home was to vote at the city election in Amsterdam, when his son, E. P. White, was candidate for mayor.

Such is a brief record of the career of Dr. White; but it gives little indication of the prominent characteristics of the man. It may be said of him that he was one of those who seem to have been born with a natural aptitude for his profession, and such was his intense love for it that it was a delight to him wholly outside of personal gain through it. Indeed, so assiduous was he in its pursuit that he gave little time or attention to the financial aspect of it; to him that was a mere incidental feature of his work. If patients paid him, it was well. If they did not, he was the last one to think that he ought to try and make them. From his standpoint, the patient without a dollar was of the same professional importance with the millionaire. A part of this characteristic may, perhaps, be credited to his broad charity; but in his profession his first thought was ever to give relief, if possible. His last

was that of how much he might gain thereby in material return. This brief estimate of his character may be very properly and truthfully concluded by adding what was written of him at the time of his death by one who knew him well:

"It will be many days before a purer minded or more unselfish man passes away from Amsterdam. His life work was healing the sick, to which he gave a devotion beyond the thought of pecuniary reward. Early and late, among rich and poor alike, he ministered with gentleness and comforted with untiring skill. He loved children and they loved him, and many of them now grown up, with others whom he has benefited, are grateful to him. But beyond all other things he loved his family. For their welfare he hesitated at no self-sacrifice and he found his happiness in theirs."

Dr. White was for many years a member of the Presbyterian church, and his daily life was a never-failing evidence of his sincerity and faithfulness.

Dr. White was twice married. At the age of twenty-four he married Sarah A. Maxwell, in Ripley, O., who lived only six months afterward. In May, 1855, he married Catharine J. Maxwell of Johnstown (not a relative of the first wife), who survives him. Mrs. White came from Johnstown to Amsterdam in 1854, as preceptress of a young ladies' private school, which she conducted with great success until her marriage, and for which labor she was eminently qualified. She is a woman of marked strength of character and intelligence, and has been active in local charities and the general well-being of the community. Her father, William Boyd Maxwell, was born at Philadelphia, Pa., the son of Cornelius Maxwell, who came from Edinburgh, Scotland, and joined the Continental forces in the Revolutionary war. Her maternal grandfather, Joel Manrow, was also a Scotchman and Revolutionary soldier. Her great-grandfather, Abram Poole, was the first of the family to settle in Amsterdam, having located on a farm about three miles east of the present city, and afterwards moved to Kingsboro, Fulton county.

Dr. and Mrs. White had five children: William M., Edward P., Sarah E., Lucy M., and Joseph N., all of whom reside in Amsterdam. Dr. White had a younger brother, Moses White, who died September 1, 1891, at Cape Vincent, N. Y.

Dr. White's death took place in Amsterdam on the 24th of April, 1890.

PAWLING, HENRY, was born in what is now the town of Perth, Fulton county, on February 25, 1811. His father was Levi Pawling, who was born October 28, 1783, and died November 7, 1846. He settled at Galway, Saratoga county, in 1836. Levi's children were Ann Dorothy, Joseph H., Margaret Eliza, Henry (our subject), John, Abraham, Francis, Myndert, Albert, Haskell L. and Sarah Jane. The ancestry of the Pawlings was from Holland.

Henry Pawling was educated in the public schools, and at the age of sixteen moved to Hagaman's Mills, where he worked for five years, learning the cloth maker's trade. When he had become proficient, he traveled through Massachusetts, working at his trade, and finally located in Galway, Saratoga county, where he began the manufacture of his own goods, staying there about thirteen years. In 1843 he again came to Hagaman's Mills, establishing the first woolen cloth factory here. From a small investment of about \$500, the business grew under his management to huge proportions, making Mr. Pawling one of the most influential citizens of the town of Amsterdam. His sons, William M. and H. H., were associated with him in the business, which was changed to knit goods in 1857, and when he retired the sons continued the business, which is now a large and prosperous industry. In 1836 Mr. Pawling married Margaret Van Derbogart of Jefferson county, N. Y., and they became the parents of three children: William M., born in 1836; H. H., born in 1839; and Jennie M., now Mrs. Benjamin F. Herrick, born in 1838.

BREEDON, WILLIAM, was born in Loughborough, Leicestershire, England, on the 23d of September, 1828. His father was William, also, a respectable mechanic, who died in his native place. His mother was Charlotte Powell of Leicestershire. They had eight children, three of whom were sons, who came to America in 1851, two of them remaining permanently.

William Breedon was of course twenty-three years old when he reached Waterbury, Conn. He had already learned his trade as an operator and builder of knitting machinery by a service of seven years. His mechanical ability was in demand and he found employment in Newark, N. J., where he remained until 1856, going thence

to Fitchburg, Mass., where he worked until 1860. His next place of employment was in Cohoes, N. Y., where he worked until the fall of 1864, when he came and settled permanently in Amsterdam. He first worked for William Stewart and Daniel Carmichael as superintendent of their knitting mill, a position for which he was eminently fitted by his long experience. His service in all of the places above mentioned had not been confined to any one branch of the business, but acting as superintendent much of the machine work, repairs, etc., had fallen to him to perform. He remained with Stewart & Carmichael until their mill was burned, when he began the manufacture of knitting kneedles, a field of work which he foresaw must inevitably become a broad one through the prospective growth of the manufacture of knit goods in this place. In this business he has continued ever since, his son, Albert William, now being associated with him. They manufacture only one kind of needles, known as spring needles, turning out approximately 100,000 per week, many of them finding market in Amsterdam, while some are shipped to distant points.

Mr. Breedon is a Republican in politics. He was chosen trustee of the village in 1877 and held the office for three years, during which time he evinced an active spirit and won the regard of his fellow members of the board. In March, 1891, he was elected mayor of the city, which office he still holds by re-election. To the onerous duties of the high office Mr. Breedon gives freely of his time, and his natural qualifications of good judgment and a broad comprehension of the city's needs, enable him to so conduct his administration as to please his constituents.

Mr. Breedon was married in 1850 to Mary Shingler, of Leicestershire, England. They have six children, one son and five daughters; all the latter but one are married. The son married Mary Norton and has five children. The cares of the regular business are now almost wholly taken by the son, while Mr. Breedon gives considerable attention to real estate which he has acquired and improved since about 1880.

HOWARD, EBENEZER.—The ancestry of Ebenezer Howard is readily traced back through several generations and into the latter years of the last century, to Enos Howard, who lived and died in Duaneburgh, Schoharie county, N. Y. There his son Samuel was born

on the 13th of July, 1795. He married Marilla Hatch on November 12, 1814, and died on the 9th of March, 1857. Mrs. Howard was one of eight children, namely : Nathaniel, Orrin, Ephraim, Josiah, Ella, Cara, Lizzie and Marilla, and she was born on the 27th of January, 1798, and died February 25, 1869. To Samuel and Marilla Howard were born five children, as follows : Ruby, born August 28, 1815 ; married David Griffith September 2, 1833, and died May 5, 1836, leaving a daughter, Susan, who married Richard Jameson, and now lives a widow in Pennsylvania.

Silas H., born October 6, 1817, married Julia A. Avery October 25, 1840 ; she died in 1881, and he resides at Fort Hunter, N. Y., where also live his sons, Ebenezer and Edward, and daughter Ruby ; his son William lives in Brooklyn and Avery in Virginia.

George, born June 7, 1819, married Charlotte Frazier January 10, 1844, and died December 20, 1884. To them were born ten children, of whom there are living Charles Howard, of New York ; Mary Foody, of Albany ; and Mrs. Clara Johnson, of Fort Hunter.

William T., born February 24, 1822, and died September 23, 1838.

Ebenezer Howard, son of Samuel was born at Duaneburgh January 1, 1827. He married Ellen Crane February 12, 1852, and died in Fort Hunter February 10, 1892. Mrs. Howard was born at Newburgh, Orange county, N. Y., May 16, 1832, and died at Fort Hunter February 11, 1892 ; she was a daughter of Jacob Crane, a teacher of mathematics of Newburgh, and had one brother, George Crane, of Australia, and one sister, Mrs. William Barnes, of Brooklyn.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Ebenezer Howard were four, as follows : Frank H., born January 18, 1852, and Addie L., who both died in May, 1854, of scarlet fever. George Anderson, born July 24, 1856, died at Hot Springs, Ark., April 30, 1891. Charles Louis Howard, born October 11, 1859, at Empire Lock, Fort Hunter, will be noticed a little further on.

Ebenezer Howard was a man of much more than average business capacity, a strong character, and life principles that gave him a position of honor among his fellow citizens. With only ordinary opportunities for obtaining an education, he gained by observation and reading a fund of general information which his prudent and sound judgment enabled



E. Howard

him to use to advantage in all the relations of life. In the year 1859 he became associated with John D. Blood of Fort Hunter in the manufacture of brooms in a small way. He carefully studied the business for many years and became thoroughly versed in its methods, quality of stock and the sale of the product. The factory was conducted with varying success until 1870, when Mr. Blood sold out his interest and removed to Amsterdam. Mr. Howard continued alone, enlarging and improving the business until 1873, when his factory was totally destroyed by fire. Owing to the unfortunate division of the insurance which he carried, the loss was a severe one. But with unfaltering courage he at once built and equipped the present brick factory and started with renewed zeal. After a time he associated with himself his nephew, Avery Howard, and his two sons, George A. and Charles L., and the business was successfully conducted under the firm name of E. Howard & Sons, which name is still retained. During his long business career in Montgomery county Mr. Howard became a well-known figure in the community, and by his straightforward business methods and by his general worth as a man, gained the confidence and good will of all who knew him. At the organization of the Merchants' Bank of Amsterdam he was made a director, and at the time of his death held the same office in its successor, the Farmers' National Bank. He was also a director of the Fort Hunter Suspension Bridge. His public spirit led him to take an active interest in every project for the good of the place where he lived, and his efforts contributed largely to its growth and improvement. He was an honored and useful member of the Universalist church at Bramen's Corners and an earnest and efficient mover in the temperance cause and in the Methodist church of the village in which he lived. In politics he was a Republican, but his naturally retiring disposition and distaste for active partisanship led him to decline public office. Generous in his nature his employees always found him their best friend, and the needy and worthy a sympathetic counselor and aid. At the time of his death the directors of the bank in which he was an officer adopted eulogistic resolutions, which said among other things:

"Enthusiastic and tireless in his efforts to promote its usefulness and prosperity, this bank is indebted to him in liberal measure for the confidence reposed in it, and for the success it has achieved. His cool

judgment and sterling integrity inspired respect for all enterprises with which he was connected. He took a deep and active interest in public affairs, was ever ready to aid and advance the cause of moral and material progress, and his heart beat in sympathy with all movements designed to benefit his fellow men."

By the death of Ebenezer and George A. Howard on the dates above given, and the withdrawal of Avery Howard, the business of manufacturing brooms fell into the sole control of Charles L. Howard, who still conducts it. He inherits the excellent business qualifications of his father, while his long experience has given him a thorough knowledge of the requirements of the industry in which he is engaged. The factory is now equipped with modern improvements, including electric light, and has an average capacity of 200 dozen per day. About seventy-five men are employed, and the product is second to none.

Charles L. Howard was married June 9, 1880, to Katie Horton Burtch, daughter of A. H. Burtch, of Fonda; she was born January 21, 1860, and received her education in the Fonda public schools and at Elmira Female College. They have four children: Harry, Helen, Mabel and Ruth.

SHANAHAN, JAMES.¹ A state official whose long, industrious, persevering career in mechanical pursuits, and whose works in different parts of the country evince his superior powers as a master of his art is the Hon. James Shanahan, superintendent of public works of the state of New York. He belongs to a class of men whose talents and energy have advanced and enriched the interests of the empire state by the construction of works intimately connected with the railroads and canals, trade and commerce.

He is a native of Ireland, and was born on the 6th of February, 1829, having now reached a period in life in which high purposes, aims and achievements are usually unfolded in full power. His ancestors were useful and substantial citizens of their country, and some of them held responsible positions. His father, having determined to seek his fortune in "the land of the free," cast a lingering look on the home of his child-

¹ The biography of James Shanahan, taken from the lives of noted Albanians and state officers by D. A. Harsha.

hood and then boldly sailed away with his family from the coasts of "old Erin" for American soil. His son James, the subject of this sketch, was then but eight years of age, and distinctly remembers the roar and tossings of old ocean during the voyage. On reaching this country the family first turned their faces westward, traveling into central New York and taking up their residence in the rich county of Onondaga. There for several years the elder Mr. Shanahan, who was not only an enterprising but industrious man, labored hard to earn a livelihood and to make provisions for his young family. And there James received a good common school education in the district school of his neighborhood. This course of elementary instruction he turned to practical account in later years.

Learning of the great inducements held out for emigrants, to what was then regarded as the far west, Mr. Shanahan with his family set out, in 1844, in search of the rich and fertile prairie lands of Michigan, and after a slow and wearisome journey reached that state, settling on a farm in the vicinity of Ann Arbor. James then was fifteen years of age, and for the two following years he assisted his father in preparing the new land for raising crops. But the monotonous pioneer life of a farmer in the solitudes of Michigan had not particular attractions for young Shanahan. He longed for another kind of work, to which his natural taste was inclining, and that was in the line of masonry. His father saw this ruling passion in his boy, and wisely consented that he should serve an apprenticeship in the stone-cutter's trade. He did so, and the step he then took he never afterwards regretted. An apt student in what he so much delighted, he soon mastered his trade; and a few years later we find him assistant to an elder brother, who was then a large contractor in the building of locks on the Erie and Oswego canals. Returning nearer the scenes of his more youthful days he became a studious and faithful assistant to his brother, under whose direction he may be said to have laid the foundation of his well-earned, high reputation as a master mechanic and engineer. With the knowledge and experience gained while with his brother he went to Lanesboro, Penn., where he was employed in the construction of the viaduct on the Erie railroad. On the completion of this work he felt himself qualified to undertake the duties and responsibilities of a contractor; and

to carry out his plans on a large scale he entered into partnership with his brother and two others. The new firm thus constituted was a strong one and soon engaged in various extensive works, among which was the building of a large portion of the masonry of the New York Central railroad between Syracuse and Rochester, and the masonry on the Oswego railroad.

In 1854 Mr. Shanahan, whose reputation as a skilled mechanic was widely extended throughout the country, was engaged in the construction of the "locks" in the Sault St. Marie canal. The following year he removed to Tribes Hill, Montgomery county, N. Y., now his permanent residence, while he ably assisted in the construction of the locks at Waterford.

His judgment in matters outside his occupation, but closely connected with it, was fully consulted by different parties, and in 1859 he was commissioned by the Dorchester Freestone Company to examine its quarry property at Dorchester, Province of New Brunswick. After giving the subject a careful investigation, a new quarry was opened there at his suggestion. In 1860 he was placed in full charge of the property, with highly satisfactory results. A large quantity of the stone was shipped to New York city and sold at a handsome profit to the company, which, under his superintendency, was not obliged to assess itself to supply funds for carrying on its operations. In 1861 Mr. Shanahan was compelled to remain at home, and during that year the Freestone Company ran behind some \$6,000 in its assets. His services were again sought after by the company, and upon its earnest request he resumed direction of the quarries, which, under his judicious management, were again worked with success and profit. The practical suggestions which he made, and the excellent judgment which he showed, both in masonry, quarry and engineering matters, was placing the name of Mr. Shanahan still more prominently before the public as a man of genuine merit and eminent skill.

From 1864 to 1866, inclusively, he was engaged first in furnishing stone for the erection of the New York Central railroad elevator at Albany, and also for the first railroad bridge, called North bridge, and afterward in the construction of the dam at Cohoes, an immense structure 1,400 feet long. This great work, so valuable to the Spindle City,

was completed in the course of one season, and stands as a noble monument to the skill of the builder.

In 1868 Mr. Shanahan was appointed superintendent of section No. 3 of the Erie canal, a position which he filled with honor and fidelity until his retirement from the office at the close of 1870. It may be stated in this connection, that Mr. Shanahan has always been a warm friend and advocate of our canals, and no official has ever watched over their affairs with more faithfulness or higher devotion.

On relinquishing his office as superintendent of the Erie canal Mr. Shanahan was inspired with a new ardor for his early cherished, regular occupation, the duties of which he now hastened to resume. One of his first contracts was for furnishing the stone for the new Hudson river bridge across the Hudson at the foot of Maiden Lane, Albany, constructed by the Hudson River Bridge Company. Subsequently he built the double tracks of the Hudson River railroad between Fort Plain and Little Falls, and furnished the stone for the section between Schenectady and Albany. The viaduct at Broadway, Albany, was successfully constructed by Mr. Shanahan in 1882.

Though not a politician by profession, yet Mr. Shanahan has been called to serve the state in a legislative capacity.

Regarding Mr. Shanahan's public life, we quote the following from the "Life Sketches of Assemblymen, 1870":

"Montgomery county in 1868 elected a Republican Assemblyman by nearly two hundred majority. When last fall the Democrats of the Fifteenth Senatorial District had nominated Isaiah Blood for Senator against Truman G. Younglove it was known that a most desperate effort would be made to wrest this district, notwithstanding its two thousand majority, from the Republicans. To do this it was first of all necessary that the Democrats of each Assembly district should nominate their strongest and most popular man. Nor were the Republicans ignorant of the nature of the contest in which they were entering and the necessity for a like care in the selection of their candidates. In Montgomery county the Democratic convention, having in view the necessity for the wisest action and the strongest possible candidate, nominated James Shanahan, of Tribes Hill. The result justified the selection. He received a majority of six hundred over his Republican

competitor, changing the majority on the State ticket from two hundred Republican (as it was in 1868) to nearly four hundred Democratic.

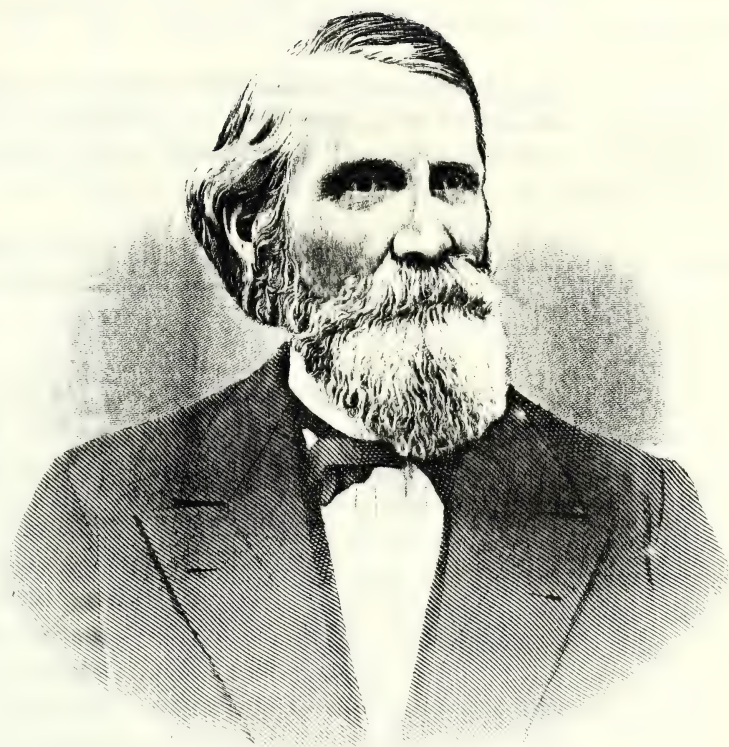
"Mr. Shanahan is an effective worker, a man of cool judgment and remarkable energy; a careful observer of men and things, and is possessed of untiring perseverance.

"The estimate in which he is held in the House may be judged from the fact that although a new member he has been placed on two of the most important committees, viz.: the Committee on Canals and the Sub-Committee of the Whole. He is also a member of the Committee on Public Printing."

For several years after the expiration of his legislative term Mr. Shanahan followed his regular business, until in 1878, when he was appointed assistant superintendent of public works of the state of New York. In January, 1883, he was appointed by Governor Cleveland as head of the department, an appointment which people of both parties looked upon as one that would not have easily been improved. Now in his true element, perfectly at home in all the duties and obligations pertaining to his office—the right man in the right place—he still continues to administer the public affairs in his department in an acceptable manner. In many respects Mr. Shanahan is a remarkable man. From his long experience in works of construction he has gained a perfect, practical knowledge of engineering as applied to practical construction; and it is but just to say that he admirably fills the present important and responsible office. A man of great perseverance and energy as well as skill, he successfully infuses his spirit into his subordinates with the happiest results. Always busy, and at the same time cool, deliberate, thoughtful, he carries on the daily duties of his office in a thorough, systematic manner.

Tall in person, with a plain open countenance, simple in his manners and agreeable in his conversation, he exhibits strong mental characteristics, especially in his chosen profession, without the least affectation, pride or vanity.

In tracing his career from the time when, as a poor boy, he commenced his apprenticeship as a stone-cutter at Syracuse, and noticing the numerous and important works which he has since accomplished, one can not but be favorably impressed with his indefatigable industry and un-



D. J. Cassidy

yielding perseverance, his constant, earnest effort to rise higher in the knowledge of his calling, and above all his uncommon skill which enabled him to successfully complete those works, causing his name to shine as a star of no small magnitude in the horizon of the mechanical world.

He is now a member of the firm of Shanahan, Briggs & Company of Fonda, of the Starin Silk Fabric Company of Fultonville, a member of the contracting firm of Shanahan & Turner, a director in the Fultonville Bank, and is also president of Cayadutta Electric Railroad Company.

In October, 1854, Mr. Shanahan married Ellen, daughter of James and Ellen Maloy of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

CASSIDY, DAVID DEMAREST, was born on the 6th day of April, 1827, in the town of Florida, Montgomery county, N. Y. His father, Christopher Cassidy, was born in the year 1796 and married Catharine Wemple, who was a native of the town of Florida. They had three children, two of whom died in infancy, leaving David D. as the only survivor. The elder Mr. Cassidy was a respected citizen of Florida and died at the early age of thirty-five years, when the subject of this sketch was only four years of age. His wife died in 1852.

David D. Cassidy's boyhood was passed in his native town, where he attended the district schools. He afterwards completed a fair English education by a short term at the Poughkeepsie Collegiate School. Left almost wholly without means, the young man was thrown upon his own resources at an early age, and in 1844, when seventeen, found employment as a clerk in a dry goods store in Amsterdam. This occupation he followed faithfully for about four years, making his employers' interests his own, industriously studying business methods and principles and practicing habits of prudence and economy, which served as a foundation for his after career. In 1849 he entered the Farmers' Bank of Amsterdam (now the Farmers' National Bank) as a clerk. This was the decisive step in his life-work. From the day he entered the bank until he left it, forty years later, Mr. Cassidy gave its welfare his constant thought, his devoted energy and watchful care. Even in

his first humble position he saw that the exercise of the qualities which he felt that he possessed would doubtless enable him to rise to an honorable and fairly lucrative station, and he, therefore, determined that nothing should be left undone by him that might aid him to reach the top of the ladder as far as related to that institution. Through the various positions in the bank he steadily rose -- clerk, bookkeeper, teller, assistant cashier and director, until in 1859, after ten years of faithful service, he was placed in the position of cashier, a position which in country banks and banks in small cities, is the chief executive office of the institution. He had now reached the highest goal as viewed by him, for although he was in after years repeatedly asked to accept the presidency of the bank, he rightly understood that such a step was a downward one, except in a purely honorary sense. As cashier he was practically master, and that was what he had been and wished to continue to be.

For thirty years with scarcely an intermission, and with none at all of more than a few days each, Mr. Cassidy held the reins of this financial institution, and by his constant presence, watchfulness, sound judgment as to important acts, and tireless zeal for its general welfare, he made it one of the largest and most prosperous banks in the interior of the state.

The reader need not be told that the foregoing is an honorable as well as a successful business record. Its parallel for long continued and successful service is not often met with, and in this instance its results gave Mr. Cassidy a position in the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens that is most enviable. Never, from the time he entered the bank as clerk until his retirement, was he asked by the directors for a bond of any description—a fact almost unprecedented in similar institutions. Such was the widely known watchfulness with which he guarded the interests of the bank that on several occasions desperate burglars, after their capture, acknowledged that their contemplated efforts to rob its vaults were abandoned. Mr. Cassidy now fills the office of trustee of the Amsterdam Academy, and has been a director and treasurer of the Chuctenunda Gas Light Company since 1878. Upon his retirement from the cashiership of the bank the local press found occasion to speak in high terms of his career.

Said one paper: "As cashier and chief executive officer of the Farmers' National Bank he passed in and out of its doors for thirty years, and during that time, by industry and tact, he lifted the stock from par value in 1859 to two hundred and fifty in 1889, besides paying regular dividends of from ten to fifteen per cent. per annum. The bank building itself was erected by him and is still the finest structure of its kind in town. A man of thoughtful turn and an economist of time, he mingles in society but little, except as business requires, his leisure being spent at home, at his desk, or among his books. And yet he is pre-eminently social in his temperament. On questions of finance he is particularly at home." Another paper said: "In the discharge of his duties he has been tireless in his industry and unceasing in his vigilance. In the storms of financial depression, both local and in the country at large, the bank has stood firm as a rock. Its successful career and present solid condition are the work of a lifetime. Mr. Cassidy has a right to be proud of the results which he has achieved."

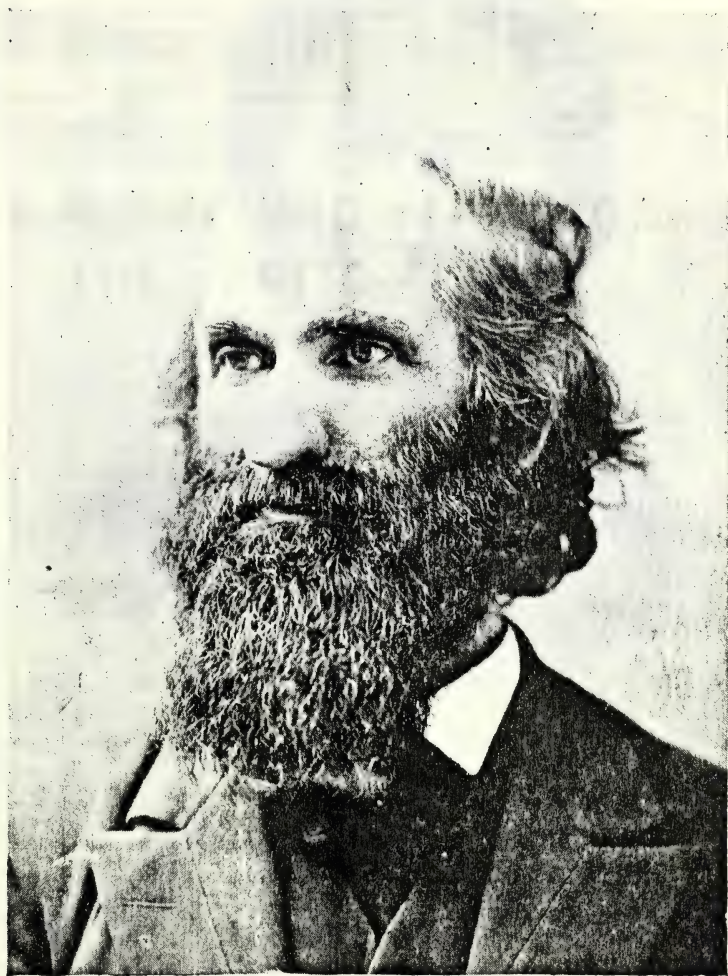
Upon the completion of the bank building, which was erected entirely under his supervision, the directors recognized his faithfulness and services in a set of resolutions expressing their appreciation of the same and tendered him, as a substantial token of their gratification, a present of one thousand dollars

Since his retirement from the bank Mr. Cassidy has given his attention to the improvement of his real estate in Amsterdam, of which he is a large owner. The new Cassidy block on East Main street has very recently been erected and adds much to the beauty and prosperous aspect of that part of the city, while his conspicuous and handsome residence on the highlands has been much improved and enlarged.

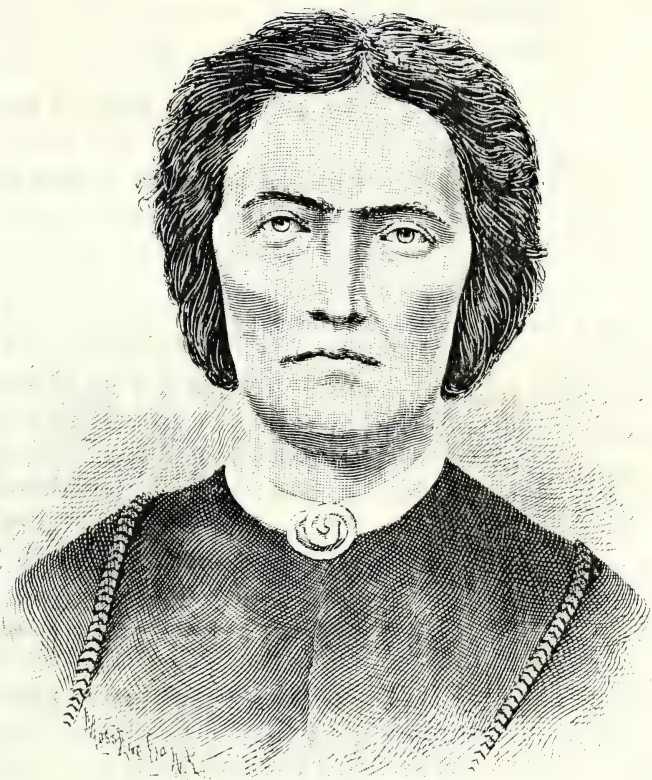
Contrary to the often found conditions, Mr. Cassidy's unremitting attention to business through a long period of years has not shut him off from the other pursuits which go so far to make life worth living. Though unable to give much attention to purely social affairs, he has found opportunity to enrich his mind by extensive reading, and to gratify his natural love for the beautiful in nature and art. His fund of information obtained by reading and close observation is a rich one, especially upon matters of finance and political economy. His ability to clearly express his opinions, and his naturally genial temperament, make him always a welcome companion.

On April 17, 1866, Mr. Cassidy married Mrs. Catharine M. Efner, second daughter of Peter H. Clute, of Rochester, N. Y. They have two children, a daughter, Belle, born January 12, 1869, and a son, David D., jr., born October 23, 1871, now a student in Harvard University.

KELLOGG, DAYTON SMITH, was born in Cornwall, Litchfield county, Conn., and is the youngest son of John and Polly (Clark) Kellogg. For several years he received private instruction from Rev. Herman Daggett, formerly principal of the Foreign Mission School at Cornwall. This school was founded by the American Board of Foreign Missions for the purpose of educating missionaries for the foreign field. The first missionaries to the Sandwich Islands were educated there. He afterwards attended the Cornwall Seminary, which for years was in charge of the Rev. E. W. Andrews, who afterward became pastor of the Broadway Tabernacle, New York. Graduating from this school, he became a teacher, and was for two years principal of Union Academy, Springfield, N. J. He then went to New York and studied dentistry with several of the most eminent dentists of the country, including Drs. Harvey and John Burdell, and Solyman and Augustus Brown. In 1845 he came to Fort Plain to visit his friend, Rev. Thomas Armitage, who was then in charge of the Methodist church of Fort Plain, and was induced to settle there and open a dental office. He at once acquired a very lucrative and successful practice which has continued to the present time. He was the first resident dentist in that section of the Mohawk valley. In 1854 he became editor and proprietor of the *Mohawk Valley Register*, which he conducted as an independent journal for several years. In 1880 he inaugurated an enterprise which was instrumental in giving to Fort Plain a large number of its most elegant residences. By cutting a street along the face of Prospect Hill, at a great expenditure of labor and capital, and the bridging of Otsquago creek at the foot of Centre street, he made this beautiful eminence (which overlooks the most beautiful portion of the Mohawk valley) accessible and very desirable for residences. Dr. Kellogg is of the eighth generation from Lieutenant Samuel Kellogg, one of the brothers who emigrated from England in 1640. Joseph Kellogg settled in Hadley, Mass.; Daniel in Norwalk, Conn.;



Dwight S. Kellogg.



Hannah W. Kellogg

and Samuel in Hatfield, Mass. The late Loyal C. Kellogg, for thirteen years chief justice of Vermont, Gov. William Pitt Kellogg and Clara Louise Kellogg are descendants of the same branch. Judah Kellogg who graduated from Yale College in 1763, and who for thirty-two years was in public life, was the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, as he was also of the late Judge Frederick Kellogg, who died at Cornwall in August, 1891, in his ninetieth year, after long service of the public in various capacities. The offices of probate judge and court of record have been in the Kellogg family for more than one hundred years; and are still held by Philo Kellogg of Cornwall. John Kellogg, the father of the subject of this sketch, was an old school Democrat, and was one of the seven in the town who stood together on political questions for several years under the "stand up" law of Connecticut. Dr. Kellogg married Hannah, daughter of David and Mary Waddell of Mariaville, N. Y. Mrs. Kellogg died August 7, 1890. Their only child, Willie Waddell Kellogg, died November 2, 1867, less than two years of age.

The following sketch of the life of Mrs. Kellogg is contributed for this work: Sprung from a noble race and nation, eminent as a witness-bearer for God's truth, and conspicuously bringing forth the fruits thereof, she proved true to her favored lineage, and very successfully exemplified its sturdy virtues all along the path of her useful life. She was by no means one to be "blown about by winds of contrary doctrines," nor to be "moved from the hope of the Gospel," however to other people might appear its air and aspect. She was never disposed to "follow a multitude to do evil," but, on the contrary, if ever occasion offered, she was, like the Abdiel of the poet, "faithful among the faithless found."

Her mental capabilities were of a superior order, which led her to be always best pleased with the purest literature, as well as with the soundest sentiments. She was no butterfly connoisseur of letters; and will ever be recalled with marked pleasure and the highest respect by such as were privileged with the teachings of her earlier years, or by social and conversational intercourse with her in her subsequent life. She possessed a vigor of mind that lifted her far above the vulgarly ascribed "weakness of womanhood," and that made her a fit companion

of the other sex. She could hardly be classed with Milton's "Fair defects of nature."

"She showed that her soft sex contains strong minds,
Such as evaporate through the course wall;
As through coarse stone elixir passage finds,
Which scarce through finer crystal can exhale."

As to her more directly personal and domestic traits, more private and sacred in their sphere, centering about friends, kindred and home, those only could do her strict justice who lived with her the more closely, and were the unavoidable observers of her hourly steps. It would be a manifest indelicacy in a non-relative to enlarge much here. Suffice it for one who was her critical pastor, to give in his testimony to her kindness and fidelity as a parishioner; to her known hospitality and courtesy to all; to her perfect simplicity and transparency of general character; to her uniform womanly dignity of demeanor, and to her ardent and untiring concern for the welfare of the whole human race to which she belonged. Her piety, the crowning glory of any life, I think no one ever questioned. The evidences of it were too numerous, and too emphatic, for that. Her "citizenship" was clearly on high.

"There was a light around her brow,
A holiness in her earnest eye,
Which show'd,—though wandering earthward now,—
Her spirit's home was in the skies."

Hannah Waddell was the daughter of David and Mary Waddell of Mariaville, Schenectady county, N. Y. In her early childhood she evinced a precocious intellect, a love of learning, a great fondness for books, and eagerly read everything that came in her way. When she was eight years old she had read Shakespeare's plays, and her frequent and copious quotations from them in after years, showed how well she comprehended them. She was also in her childhood a Bible student, and committed to memory most of the Psalms. Before she was fifteen she was familiar with the English classics, and her love of poetry made her acquainted with all that came within her reach. At this age also she had studied carefully the higher English branches, algebra, geometry, physiology, natural philosophy and chemistry. Soon after she

entered the State Normal School at Albany where she graduated with honors, being chosen to write the "Parting Song" at the close of the year. She afterwards entered Mrs. Willard's renowned school at Troy, N. Y., but her health failing she was obliged to relinquish her studies for a time, but at the opening of Fort Plain Seminary and Female Collegiate Institute under the principalship of the Rev. Dr. King, now of the Fort Edward Institute, she was one of the first of the 513 students who registered there at the opening of the first term. At the close of the first collegiate year she was the first and only graduate. It was not in her thoughts to become a teacher, but the faculty and trustees had formed so high an estimate of her acquirements and capabilities that they made overtures to her, and finally persuaded her to accept a position as teacher of higher English. She was afterwards induced to accept the preceptresship under the Rev. Dr. J. E. Latimer, who subsequently became Dean of the School of Theology in Boston University. She numbered among her associate literary colleagues some of the foremost scholars and workers of the day—Dr. Joseph E. King of Fort Edward Institute, Rev. Dr. James King of N. Y., Dr. J. E. Latimer, Dean of the School of Theology of the Boston University, Prof. G. F. Comfort of the Syracuse University, Dr. Flack of Claverack Institute, Prof. W. H. Bannister of the Nyack Institute, Mrs. J. E. Latimer, and Miss Ensign, now Mrs. Bishop J. P. Newman.

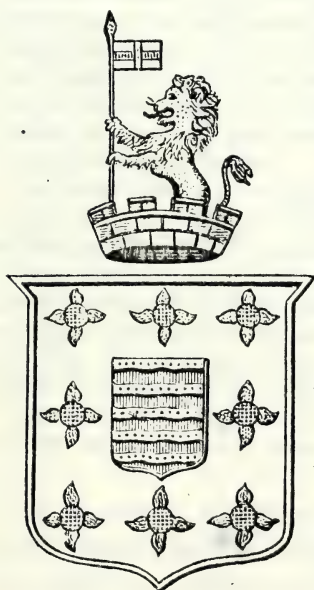
In 1858 she was married to Dr. D. S. Kellogg of Fort Plain, N. Y. Her literary labors had been too arduous for a naturally slender frame, and she settled down to a quiet home life, hoping in time to be sufficiently restored to engage in literary work. Her friends had hoped to see volumes from her pen which she wielded so readily, strongly and beautifully. But her nervous system never recovered its tone, especially after the painful sickness and death of the wonderfully precocious and lovely Willie Waddell Kellogg, their only child; and she was compelled to limit her work to correspondence with her large circle of literary friends, and occasional translations from the French for the press. She had a poetical mind, and often, in her school days, indulged in flights of imagination which found ready acceptance in the local press and in the magazines.

The Waddells were of illustrious descent, coming from one of the old and notable families of Europe. Captain John Waddell, for remarkable

prowess and important military services rendered the crown, received the arms and crest in 1627. The explanation of the armorial bearings with the account of the achievements for which they were given, will be best conveyed by a transcription from the original in the Herald's College in London. It is reproduced verbatim et literatim.

In the heraldic engraving the different colors which belong to armorial bearings are represented by lines, dots, and plain surfaces. Thus, Or (gold), is indicated by a field covered with dots; Argent (silver), by a plain field; Gules (red), by perpendicular lines; Azure (blue), by horizontal lines; Sable (black), by perpendicular and horizontal lines crossing each other; Murrey (orange), by diagonal lines intersecting each other.

To all and singular, as well nobles and gentiles as others to whom this present-writing shall come, William Segar, alias Garter, principall King of Armes of Englishmen, sendeth greeting in our Lord God everlasting—Whereas antiently from the beginning the valliant and Virteous acts of worthy men have been commended to the world



with sundry monuments and remembrances of their good deserts, amongst wch. the chiefest and most usuall hath been ye bearing of Signes and tokens in Shields commonly called Arms, wch. are evident demonstrations of prowesse and valour diversly distributed according to ye quality and deserts of the Persons meriting ye same, which order as it was most prudently devised in the beginning to stir and kindle ye hearts of men to ye imitation of like noblenesse and virtue, even so hath ye same been and yet is continually observed, to ye end, that such as have done commendable service to their Prince or countrye, either in Warre or Peace, by Sea or by Land, may receive due honor in their lives, and also derive ye same successively to their Posterity after their Deaths forever. In wch. respect—Whereas John Weddall of Steben heath in ye County of Middlesex, Esqr. now Captn. of ye Rainbowe a principall Ship of his ma'ties Navie Royall, designed in this p'sent Voyage and Imployment, 1627; hath by Sufficient Testimonie made it appear unto mee, that to ye Hon: of his Prince and Countrye, the discharge of the trust reposed in him, and ye great benefite to this Our King-

dome; exercising trade and traffique in those remote parts of the world; He valiantly attempted the takeing of the Castle of Ketchmey, a place of great importance within the Gulfe of Persego; wherein it pleased God to make him victorious and to his great

honor to take Prisoner Rufero Don Batho Capt. of ye Castle and General of the Sea Forces then in open Hostility against the King of Englands subjects; and such Protestants as were in Amity with him. And having achieved the Victory placed ye English colors upon the said Castle, carefully providing by conditions with the Duke of Seras, that the same should continue so far subjected to ye King of England, as was by ye said conditions provided and that signall of Our Nation to remain there.

After going forward in this Lawdable maner, being againe designed for farther service in these Regions; he most prudently with great Resolution and Judgment attempted the conquest of Castle and City of Ormons; a place of Renowne and consequence; and after 10 weeks siege haveing in ye prosecution of ye said Achion, by Sea as well as Land, burnt and sunk four Gallions of great Force; whereof Don Rufero before mentioned was Generall; he obtained ye Victory; wch. he carried wth great moderation and mercy, setting at liberty and giving conduct and passage to other parts, where they might find reception; to about four thousand Christian Soules, enemies to the English, that retired into ye said Castle of Ormons for their last refuge; and so established the benefit of that Victory; that his Ma'ties Subjects, wch. by his gracious Charter have sole Trade there, receive the moyety of the Tribute and customes of that place.

Wherefore I ye said Garter could doe no lesse being thereunto instantly required by ye said John Waddall, but assigne invest and arme him with such a Coat of Arms as is convenient to his degree and good deservings.

The field argent; an innschitueon barnly wavy of ten or and gules; an Orle of Fireballs proper; as in perpetuall remembrance of his atchievements in sinking and burning of his enemies. And further for Ornament unto his Healme, for a convenient Crest and Cognizance to him and his posterity; on a Wreath of his Colours Or and Gules; out of the Battlements of a Castle azure; a demy Lyon Or; holding a Banner of St. George, to denote his good service in surprizing the Castle of Viechmey, and planting ye English Colours thereon.

All which Arms and Crest and every p't and p'cell thereof, I ye said Garter by power of my Office of Garter Prin'll K. of Arms, authoured by ye institution of ye noble order of the Garter to grant these marks of Honor and Noblenesse to deserving men, Doe by these p'sents give, grant, ratifie and confirme unto ye said Joh: Weddall and his Posteritie; with their due differences forever; that he and they the same may use beare and shew forth, in Shield, Signet, Monument, Escutcheon, Penon, and Atchevm't; or any other Wayes or Means according to the Law of Arms and lawdable customs of this Realm of England; without lett or interruption of any whatsoever.

In Witnesse whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of Office May 3 Ao 1627 Annog. Regni Regis Caroli tertio, etc.

WM. SEGAR GARTER.

A branch of the Waddell family came to the United States in the early history of this country. James Waddell, the famous "Blind Preacher," came over in 1739. Wm. Wirt says of him, to his biographer, Dr. James W. Alexander, "That the description given of his eloquence had fallen far below the truth. In person he was tall and erect, his

mien was unusually dignified and his manners graceful and eloquent. Under his preaching audiences were irresistibly moved, like the wind shaken forest." President James Madison said "He has spoiled me for any other preaching." "Patrick Henry classed him with Samuel Davis, as one of the greatest orators he had ever heard." It was he who made the memorable allusion to our Saviour, so often quoted, "Socrates died like a man but Jesus Christ died like a God." Rev. Moses Waddell established a classical school in Charleston, S. C., and among his pupils were Hugh S. Legare, John C. Calhoun and James L. Petigru. As an instructor, Dr. Waddell was one of the most popular and successful men of his day. Alexander H. Stevens says of him, "In his insight into the character of students, the constitution of their minds, their capacities, capabilities and aptitudes, and in drawing out and developing, by proper training, discipline and government, he had few if any equals." His first wife was a sister of John C. Calhoun. His son James graduated at the University of Georgia in 1822, and filled the chair of Latin and Greek till 1856. John Newton Waddell graduated at the University of Georgia and entered the ministry in 1841. He filled the chair of Latin and Greek in the University of Mississippi for nine years, and in the Lagrange College till 1866. The University of Nashville gave him the degree of D. D. in 1851, and the University of Georgia that of LL. D. in 1873.

Captain Waddell's son, William, was among the prominent merchants of New York in 1773, and alderman of the city. His grandson, Coventry, was a cousin of the Earl of Coventry, who was the head of the ancestral house. He at one time headed the list of real estate owners in the city of New York, and occupied a handsome residence on Fifth avenue, that was known as Waddell's castle.

Through intimate relations with Andrew Jackson he became the president's private secretary and subsequently United States marshal for the northern district of New York. And his friendship with Martin Van Buren secured him an important appointment. A notable fact in his history was the holding of an office for over forty years, that of registry of bankruptcy.

The Waddells in those early days took a conspicuous part in social and fashionable society. The members attended Trinity church, and

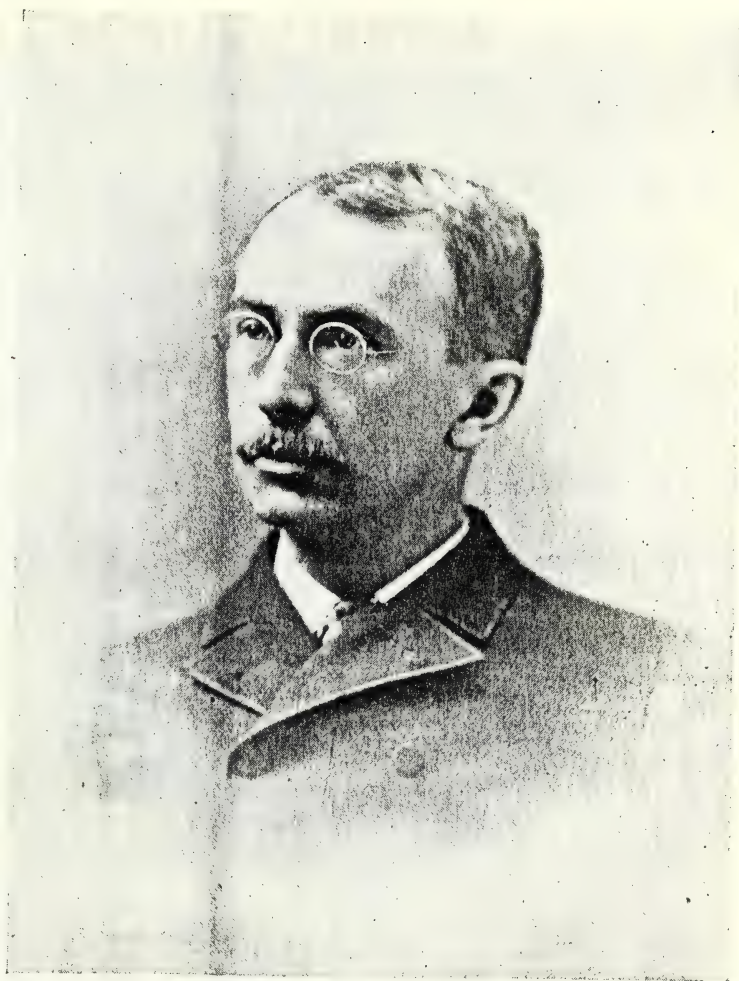
their family vault is over two hundred years old. They owned a farm in the vicinity of where Canal street now is, and at one time owned what was known as "Murray Hill Farm." One of the sons was a colonel in the war of the rebellion, and was provost marshal of Vicksburg. Another son was an officer under Farragut when he ran past the batteries of Vicksburg. James Iredell Waddell, the famous commander of the Shenandoah, was born in North Carolina in 1824. His history is too well known to need repeating.

Mrs. Kellogg was equally illustrious on her mother's side, being descended from the family of Scotland's world-renowned poet, Robert Burns, and also in a direct line from the Fletchers. She was naturally reserved with strangers, not easily approached until well acquainted, but most genial and kind with all classes, very gifted in conversation, having a remarkably retentive memory, keeping pace with the events of the day, well versed in the political affairs of our country as well as those of the old world. The names and history of the reigning sovereigns of Europe with their general characteristics, their intermarriages with the sovereigns of different nations were perfectly familiar to her. Persons acquainted with her will readily recognize very many of the qualities and characteristics and traits of character described in the foregoing sketches of the Waddell families. She was tall and erect with a massive head, a large, keen and penetrating eye, before which, with its steady, unwavering gaze those older than herself would quail. She answers well to the character given by Alexander Stevens to Dr. Moses Waddell. She was possessed of a resolution, a firmness and decision of character, which, under like circumstances, would, with Ridley and Latimer, have welcomed the stake. No influence could have been exerted to swerve her from what she conceived to be right. She had the abilities, the quickness of perception, the intuitive knowledge of human nature and breadth of judgment which, had she been a lawyer, would have made her a Daniel Webster; or had she been on the bench a Taney; on the battlefield a Napoleon, or in the pulpit a Beecher or Spurgeon. But she was greater than all these, she was a true and devoted wife, a fond and loving mother, a constant friend, a sincere, intelligent, devout Christian, kind and gentle, charitable to the poor—in truth a grand and noble character. She went down to the grave with

an unfaltering trust in God, loved, revered and lamented by all who knew her, her only sorrow and regret being the grief and loneliness of those she left behind.

KLINE, WILLIAM J., editor and publisher of the Amsterdam daily and weekly *Democrat*, was born in Fultonville, Montgomery county, N. Y., on the 7th of November, 1848. After the completion of his studies in the district schools, the Johnstown Academy, and Prof. Collins' private school in Albany, he entered Union College and graduated with honor in 1872. The following year he spent in the office of John H. Starin, in New York city, and then came to Amsterdam and purchased the *Weekly Democrat* office of Ashe & Matthewson. The paper felt the influence of his ability as a writer and manager from the first, and its prosperity warranted him in 1879 in starting the daily edition. Republican in politics and conducted on a vigorous policy, the journal has constantly grown in influence and favor and has long been recognized as one of the ablest Republican organs in the interior of the State. Mr. Kline is a fluent writer of a strong practical tendency and has won the approbation of the community by his honorable conduct of his paper.

LYNK, M., editor and business manager for the Recorder Publishing Company of Amsterdam, was born in the town of Cherry Valley, Otsego county, N. Y., on December 24, 1853. His opportunities for obtaining an education were limited to the district schools, and at the age of sixteen years he came with his parents to Amsterdam, where he entered the *Recorder* office as an apprentice and devoted the ensuing ten years to thoroughly learning the art of printing. He then left the office and shared in starting the Amsterdam *Sentinel* with Thomas McNally. Eight months later he sold out his interest and about two years thereafter purchased the Fort Plain *Standard*. This journal he conducted successfully for ten years, when in the fall of 1889 he returned to Amsterdam and established a job printing office. On the 1st of February, 1892, he bought an interest in the *Daily Recorder* with E. H. Finlayson. The latter soon left the firm, and on the 1st of



William J. Schine.



Mr. Byrke.

September, 1892, Mr. Lynk organized the Recorder Publishing Company and assumed his present position. The *Daily Recorder* was founded in 1881. Formerly a Republican organ, its politics was changed to Democratic, February 1, when Mr. Lynk came into the firm. Mr. Lynk is a writer of fine ability and is thoroughly energetic and enterprising in the business conduct of the establishment. The *Recorder* enjoys an encouraging and increasing circulation and wields an influence in local politics.

SANFORD FAMILY, THE. — No name, perhaps, is more closely interwoven with the history of Amsterdam and more fully identified with its upbuilding than that of Sanford. Coming here when the place was a hamlet, the pioneer and the several descendants have not only witnessed every stage of development in village and city, but have been important, stirring factors in its growth, both materially and socially.

John Sanford came to Amsterdam more than seventy years ago (1821) from Roxbury, Conn., endowed with a good education and an ample store of energy and determination to advance in life. He first found employment in teaching school, which he followed a few terms here and afterwards in Mayfield, where he also carried on a small mercantile business. Returning to Amsterdam, he opened a store and in a few years was among the foremost of the place. He continued this business until 1840. Meanwhile his fitness for the duties of public life had been fully demonstrated to his fellow citizens and in 1840 he was elected to Congress in the Harrison campaign. He served in that body only one term, but with entire acceptance to his constituents. Returning to Amsterdam, he commenced the foundations of what is now one of the largest manufacturing industries in the Empire State—the making of carpets. This business, in a somewhat incipient condition, he brought here, with those who had been conducting it, from elsewhere, and about the year 1842 the first product was ready for the market. Into this industry he threw his whole energies and in a few years made it one of the most important in the place. Unfortunately the factory was burned in the year 1853. Mr. Sanford then retired from active life. His death occurred in 1857. He left a marked impression upon Amsterdam, and his public spirit was felt in all the aspects of its growth and welfare.

SANFORD, STEPHEN, son of John, was born in the town of Mayfield, in what is now Fulton county, May 26, 1826. Believing fully in the benefits of education, his father placed him, after the customary period in the district school, in the academy at Amsterdam. Subsequently he attended for two and a half years at the Georgetown College, D. C., and then entered the military school at West Point. After availing himself of the systematic study and discipline in that famous institution, Mr. Sanford felt that it was obligatory upon him to return home and share with his father the cares of a growing business. Accordingly in 1844 he entered the carpet manufactory, took up the practical work from the very beginning, and when he was made a partner in the mill he was a thorough master of every detail of the business of carpet manufacturing from the raw material to the finished product. The copartnership dated from 1848. When his father retired from the business the son purchased his interest, which then consisted of very little else than the ruins of the burned mills. But enough had been done previous to that to convince Stephen Sanford that, with his practical knowledge and self-confidence in his ability to conduct a large industry, he could build up a business which would be a substantial addition to the village of Amsterdam as well as of material benefit to himself. He built a mill on the burned site and renewed the business in a small way, but with marked success from the start. This is not the proper place to follow in detail the gradual but steady growth of this great industry, and it will suffice to note that every building in the now enormous plant in which are employed about 2,500 hands and from which are turned out annually a product of more than \$3,000,000, has been erected and furnished with machinery by Stephen Sanford and under his personal supervision. In the accomplishment of this vast work the traits of character with which Mr. Sanford is endowed—industry, perseverance, integrity and wonderful self-reliance—combined with his practical knowledge, have contributed; and to these qualities must be added his very exceptional executive ability and his capacity for grasping large undertakings and seeing their end from the beginning. He is a remarkably accurate judge of human nature, seldom mistakes the character and motives of men, and hence has been able to surround himself with employees of all grades who feel a personal interest in the advancement of his projects and feel respect and admiration for him as a man.

In politics Mr. Sanford is a Republican and has been unswerving in his allegiance to that organization. Possessed of broad ideas on most subjects, a deep thinker upon all practical problems and political economy, his counsel has been much sought, and had he so desired he could have held numerous conspicuous positions in the gift of the people. Only one political office has he consented to accept—that of congressman in 1868. He served faithfully and ably one term and declined a renomination, largely on account of the demands made upon him by his extensive business interests. He has been frequently called to positions of responsibility and trust by his immediate fellow citizens, and in his connection therewith has served their interests faithfully and honorably. He was a member of the Electoral College that gave New York State to U. S. Grant, and was a member of the National Convention in 1876. He was for many years a director in the Farmer's Bank; by his energy and interest it may be said, he created, and became president of the Amsterdam Reservoir Company, through which a thousand acres have been flooded by the waters of Chuctenunda creek, supplying an immense water power for his own and other manufactories. He has been president of the Amsterdam Academy, president of the Gaslight Company, president of the Cemetery Association, founder and is president of the Amsterdam City Bank and erected the handsome block in which it carries on its business. He has also built several other handsome blocks in the city. He is president of the Montgomery County Agricultural Society, etc.

The position occupied by Mr. Sanford in the business and social life of Amsterdam may be readily inferred from the foregoing. In the prosecution of all large public undertakings he is appealed to for his sound judgment, wise counsel and material aid, all of which are freely given. Prompt and outspoken by whomsoever addressed; quick to arrive at conclusions and fearless in their support, he is still courteous at all times, and genial and warm-hearted with those who enjoy his friendship.

Mr. Sanford was married on the 12th day of December, 1849, to Sarah Jane Cochran. They have had five sons, two of whom, John and William, are living. The eldest is John Sanford, now member of Congress from his district. Both of them are associated with their father in his business.

SANFORD, JOHN, manufacturer and congressman, was born at Amsterdam, N. Y., January 18, 1851. He attended the district school, and afterward the Amsterdam Academy. In 1865 he entered the Poughkeepsie Military Institute, and remained there until 1868, at which time he entered Yale College, from which he graduated in 1872, with honor. Immediately after his graduation he entered his father's carpet mills at Amsterdam (which were established by his grandfather in 1840), and, taking a subordinate position, worked himself up in the various departments, until, after years of faithful service, he was admitted as a member of the firm.

In the fall of 1888 he became the nominee of the Republican party for Representative in Congress from the Twentieth Congressional district, comprising the counties of Montgomery, Schenectady, Fulton, Hamilton and Saratoga. This district was more generally known as the "Saratoga district." The number and importance of its manufacturing industries (comprising gloves, knitted goods, carpets, locomotives, paper and pulp, linseed oil, etc.), representing a total annual product of over thirty millions of dollars, naturally made it a center of interest in the great political battle for the supremacy of the policy of protection for American industries, which was the central plank of the Republican platform that year. As the chosen advocate and leader of these great industrial interests and the thousands of operatives dependent upon them for employment, his campaign was aggressive, and his speeches on the stump demonstrated his earnestness and ability as a champion of the protective policy. He was elected by 3,300 plurality over Judge Zerah S. Westbrook, the Democratic nominee. The total vote polled was 45,932, of which he received 23,966—52 per cent.

His term as congressman began March 4, 1889, and he took his seat in the House of Representatives at the opening of the Fifty-first Congress, December 2, 1889, and was made a member of the committee on manufactures, the committee on the library and the committee on reform in the civil service. During this first session of his service, he took an active part in the work of framing the McKinley bill, and, by reason of his business training and familiarity with the varied industries of his district, was able to render valuable assistance to the committee on ways and means, by whom he was selected for the delicate and difficult task

of reconciling the conflicting interests of the woolen-manufacturers and the wool-growers, in the matter of wool duties, and he presented an agreement upon which they united. In his speech advocating the passage of the McKinley tariff bill, he evinced careful research and perfect familiarity with his subject. He also ably conducted a defensive fight, before the ways and means committee of the House and the finance committee of the Senate, in the interest of the glove-manufacturers of his district, against a powerful opposition of wealthy importers, regarding the duty on gloves. This glove industry represented an annual product of nine millions of dollars, and furnished employment to more than forty thousand people in his district. He won this fight, thereby opening up the manufacture of ladies' fine kid gloves in the United States.

He took an active part in the question of reciprocal trade treaties; and a set of resolutions which he prepared and presented to Congress, in July, 1890, near the close of the first session of the Fifty-first Congress, authorizing the President to enter into negotiations with the government of Spain and the republics of Central and South America, with regard to reciprocal arrangements of trade, and recommending the suspension of legislation touching the subject of duties on sugar and molasses until the next session of Congress was referred to the committee on ways and means for consideration, and attracted much attention. Also a bill which he introduced during the next session, in December, 1890, to re-fund the 4 and 4½ per cent. bonds into bonds bearing 2 per cent. interest, and to convert the United States notes into certificates of indebtedness without interest, which was referred to the committee on ways and means, and indicated deep study and careful attention to the financial questions of legislation then awaiting the action of Congress.

As a speaker on the floor of the House, he was earnest, able and impressive, and his speech in support of the mail subsidy bill, delivered during the second session of the Fifty-first Congress, advocating a national policy of advancement for American shipping as well as other American industries, was an eloquent plea, and won friends and votes for that important measure which afterwards became a law.

In the fall of 1890 he was renominated by his party and again became its standard-bearer. The McKinley tariff law, which was signed by

President Harrison October 1, 1890, had not been in operation long enough to enable the people to judge fairly of its effect upon business and prices, and every means was employed by the opponents of the protective policy in the campaign which followed, to promote the belief that articles of ordinary use and consumption were to be forced up to fabulous prices. Congressman Sanford was also compelled to meet and overcome in this campaign an opposition from the State Democratic administration at Albany, and from the leaders of the Democracy, who believed that his defeat would be regarded as a repudiation of the tariff legislation of the Fifty-first Congress on the part of a large and representative body of the wage-workers, for whose benefit, its friends claimed, it was largely framed. The result of this election gave Mr. Sanford 18,369 of the 36,748 votes cast, being about 50 per cent. of the total vote, and elected him by a plurality of 1,581 votes over Alexander B. Baucus, the Democratic nominee. The significance of this result can be better understood when it is remembered that the result of this election throughout the country changed the majority in the House of Representatives from 19 Republican to 246 Democratic, and the congressional delegation from New York State from 18 Republicans and 16 Democrats to 11 Republicans and 23 Democrats.

In the Fifty-second Congress he served on the foreign affairs committee, the committee on education and the committee on expenditures in the state department. The Democratic majority of nearly three to one made it impossible for a Republican to accomplish anything of importance in the way of legislation in this Congress; but he continued to devote himself assiduously to the interests of his constituents in the matter of pension claims and their numerous other personal requests, and his efforts in this direction were highly appreciated by his constituents—particularly by the veterans, the large majority of whom had supported him in his second campaign without regard to party lines, and many of the Grand Army posts had passed and sent to him resolutions expressing appreciation of his championship of their interests. During the four years that Mr. Sanford remained in Congress he never failed to reply, promptly and fully, to every letter written to him from his district—without regard to the politics or social position of the writer.

In the summer of 1892 the Democratic administration at Albany brought about a gerrymander of the congressional districts of the State, which separated Montgomery and Schenectady counties from Saratoga, Fulton and Hamilton counties, and attached them to Otsego, Schoharie and Greene counties—forming the Twenty-first Congressional district. The Republican convention called to nominate a candidate to represent this new district in the Fifty-third Congress, met at Schenectady, October 8, 1892. A strong sentiment had found expression for some months among the leading Republicans of the new district in favor of renominating Mr. Sanford for a third term, and this sentiment was strongly reflected in the delegates to the convention, who knew he would be the strongest candidate they could nominate, and there is no reason to doubt that he would have been nominated for a third term had it not been that he had stated his determination—both to leaders of the party personally, and in newspaper interviews—to devote his attention, after the close of the Fifty-second Congress, to his private business. He was married at Sanford, Florida, February 17, 1892, to his second cousin, Miss Ethel Sanford, third daughter of General Henry S. Sanford, deceased, formerly United States minister to Belgium.

Three successive generations of the Sanford family have been represented in Congress from the district of which Montgomery county forms a part. Probably this case is without a parallel in the history of American politics. John Sanford, grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was born in Connecticut and settled in Montgomery county early in this century. In 1840—the year of “Tippecanoe and Tyler too”—he was elected to the Twenty-seventh Congress as a Democrat, and served one term. He helped to make the protective tariff of 1842. In 1868 his son, Stephen Sanford, was elected to the Forty-first Congress from the same district, as a Republican. He helped to maintain the protective system, and was an influential member of the committee on manufactures and the committee on patents.

LOADWICK, GEORGE H., the subject of this sketch, is, in point of years of service, the senior member of the Amsterdam press. He is also the best known Amsterdam editor in the Mohawk Valley, not only personally but through the medium of his paper, *The Morning*

Sentinel, which has come to be recognized as the leading Democratic journal in the twenty-first congress district.

Mr. Loadwick was born in the village of St. Johnsville, in 1848, and is a son of the late Charles Loadwick of that place, and is, therefore, a "Mohawk Dutchman." During his boyhood he had such educational advantages as were afforded by the village school. Possessed of good natural ability and by contact with the world, he builded upon this scholastic foundation an education that has enabled him to cope with those who boast of academic and collegiate courses. When still a young man he was the teacher in his alma mater. While thus engaged he became a frequent and valued contributor to the columns of the *Mohawk Valley Register*, published at Fort Plain. This was his first newspaper work, but he displayed decided talent and taste for the work.

In 1869 he moved to New York city and became one of the corresponding secretaries of the United States Publishing Company. He retained this position for several months and was then transferred to Cincinnati, Ohio, to open a branch office for the company in that city. He remained in Cincinnati about three years, and during this time utilized his leisure hours in inditing occasional contributions to the *Evening Times* of that city, over the name of "Joe Gibbons," a signature that was afterward made famous in the Mohawk Valley while Mr. Loadwick was the correspondent of the *Albany Argus*. The publishing company desired him to go to San Francisco to establish another branch of their business on the Pacific coast, but interests in the east impelled him to decline the commission, and he returned to the valley of the Mohawk.

Soon afterward he purchased an interest in the *Mohawk Valley Democrat*, published at Fonda. Mr. Loadwick assumed editorial management of the paper, remaining one year, severing his connection with the *Democrat* to become the Mohawk Valley correspondent of the *Albany Argus*. He held this position for about six years. During this time he became a familiar figure in the valley villages, and the writings of "Joe Gibbons" were copied very extensively from the columns of the *Argus*. Leaving the *Argus* he became city editor of the *Utica Observer*. On the 1st of January, 1878, he succeeded Chas.



Geo. W. Goodrich.

P. Winegar as editor of the *Amsterdam Recorder*, and remained with the paper until February 18, 1882. At this time he purchased an interest in the *Amsterdam Sentinel*, assuming the editorial and business management of the paper. About eight years ago he bought the interest of his partners and became sole owner of *The Sentinel*. On October 4, 1884, *The Sentinel* was changed from a weekly to a daily paper, and on May 28, 1888, the paper was first issued as a morning paper, the only morning paper issued between Albany and Utica.

It is the policy of the paper to treat all people alike, the rich and the poor receive the same attention. It is aggressively progressive, speaking of men and measures as it finds them. Mr. Loadwick is a fearless and forceful writer, and is gifted with a style peculiarly his own, almost always strongly impregnated with keen wit, and not infrequently with scathing sarcasm. As a controvertist there are few who have the temerity to engage him in a bout. Although not given to public speaking, he can, when occasion demands, acquit himself most excellently. Somewhat blunt and abrupt in manner and speech, he often impresses a stranger unfavorably, but upon closer and more intimate acquaintance the inherent qualities of sociability and friendship come gradually to the surface, and you begin to admire him despite first impressions.

Mr. Loadwick is a man of extremely temperate habits, and demands that his employees are sober and industrious. He was married March 10, 1874, to Miss Emily Mosher, of St. Johnsville, and the union has been blessed by two young daughters, Misses Bessie Maria and Florence Emma, to whom he is greatly devoted.

COREY, DAVID PARSONS, was born April 23, 1803, near Williamstown, Mass. He died May 18, 1869. When six years old his father died, and at an early age he determined to support himself, relinquishing to his mother his portion of the homestead, and doing whatever his hands found to do, sometimes working for farmers, alternately with attending school. When eighteen years old on examination the commissioners gave him a certificate "for sufficient learning, and in all respects well qualified to teach a school." In various years he taught

both at Salem and Hoosic. He read law in the office of the very able jurist, Samuel Stevens (who afterwards removed to Albany), and in 1829 was admitted to the bar in Washington county. He had energy, perseverance and courage, and was not lacking in public spirit or patriotism. About this time Governor De Witt Clinton appointed him "Brigadier Judge Advocate" of the New York tenth division of militia, and he served as an officer so long as "general trainings" were deemed necessary.

About 1830 he came to Amsterdam, was admitted to practice as "Attorney in the Supreme Court" of Montgomery county, and in 1832 was admitted as "Counselor in the Supreme Court," and appointed "Solicitor, Court of Chancery;" in 1834 was appointed by Governor William L. Marcy "Master and Examiner in Chancery" for Montgomery county; in 1835 was admitted as "Counselor in the Court of Chancery," and was admitted to practice as "Attorney and Proctor, Solicitor, Counselor and Advocate" in the Courts of the United States.

Mr. Corey came to Amsterdam when the number of inhabitants did not exceed 500. He at once interested himself in every project tending to promote the growth, prosperity and general good of the place. He assisted in getting a public library and gave it place in his office and for several years acted as librarian; also a "Literary Society," of which most of the prominent men were members. The clergymen, lawyers, doctors and teachers took an active part. The ladies were invited to write essays on the subjects of interest to be debated. He was one of the contributors to purchase and construct the reservoir; a patron of the Agricultural Society; president of the Temperance Society for many years, etc.

In 1839 he was active in organizing "The Farmers' Bank," and not having sufficiently recovered from a severe illness to resume his "practice," gave his services for a year as "cashier." He was one of the founders of the Female Seminary, so auspiciously inaugurated with the learned J. W. Sterling and his accomplished wife at its head. In 1840 a male department was added and organized under the same board of trustees, called the "Female Seminary and Academy." He performed the duties of trustee and secretary of this institution for about thirty years. Twelve times he was elected president of the village.

In the practice of law Mr. Corey soon secured confidence, and he pursued it with continually increasing reputation, and was not less deserving on account of his private and social qualities. His talents and his habits of industry eminently qualified him for an active part in public affairs, and induced his fellow citizens to call upon him on all occasions when anything was to be done for the common welfare. He was a personal witness of the many changes which had occurred in the history of Amsterdam and was intimately identified with them. No man contributed more than he to the substantial prosperity of the place. He was a friend of education, temperance and morality, and gave the full weight of his influence and active services to promote them. On the records of all agencies for good in the history of the past, his name holds a prominent place. In his profession he was distinguished less for his eloquence at the bar and before a jury, than as an intelligent and well-read lawyer, and a discriminating and safe counselor.

On May 14, 1844, Mr. Corey was married to Emily, only daughter of Cornelius Van Derveer and Maria Phillips. They had three sons. The eldest died in infancy. Watts Parsons Corey from childhood manifested mechanical genius and was ambitious and inventive. When he was nineteen years of age he was granted a patent for a "Link and Valve Motion" to increase power, and to regulate steam. This attachment has been adopted in some of the mills and on railroad locomotives. He found no greater satisfaction than to know that his inventions were serviceable. He was an enthusiastic fireman, and many years was engineer on some one of the steamers, including one of his own construction. He took high rank as a machinist. In 1873 he was engaged with his brother manufacturing knit goods generally; they were the patentees, sole proprietors and manufacturers of the "Novelty Shirt." He had one son, B. Franklin Corey, who died in January, 1883, aged sixteen years.

Barnet Lee Corey was born March 21, 1851, and died August 14, 1874. Was at Cornell University as sophomore in 1869, and as junior in Union College in 1870. In 1871 he entered Wabash College and there graduated June, 1872. In the class day exercises was prophet, and delivered one of the honorary orations at the Commencement. Soon

after he began the study of law in the office of Horde & Hendricks, of Indianapolis, Ind. In 1873 he came to Amsterdam to assist his brother in the manufacture of knit goods, intending to resume his chosen profession. For one so young he stood high on the roll of honor, both as an intellectual and a business man. One daughter survives him.

Mrs. Corey's only brother, John Watts Van Derveer, was born in Florida, N. Y., February 21, 1820, and died at Fonda, N. Y., November 27, 1860. In 1831 he commenced his education in Amsterdam at Horace Sprague's Academy for Boys. Subsequently he attended the High School at Lawrenceville, N. J., his uncle, A. H. Phillips, being proprietor and one of the founders of that institution. In 1842 graduated at Union College and delivered one of the honorary orations at the Commencement. Entered as student at law in the office of D. P. Corey, admitted to the bar in 1844 and became partner of D. P. Corey. He soon won for himself the respect and admiration of all who knew him, both as a lawyer and a gentleman. To the poor and unfortunate he freely gave his counsel, and shared his means. Very few have been gifted with more ability and more correct notions of what is honorable and upright. Firm in his adherence to the right, yet courteous in a large degree, with great argumentative powers, and laudable ambition, a talent to comprehend and expound the intricacies of the law, a good command of language and a forcible, earnest way of expressing himself, he was deservedly popular. In 1849 he was elected clerk of Montgomery county, served six years, and declined another nomination. Through all his political and business life the integrity of his character was preserved unblemished.

INMAN, HORACE, was born in Salisbury Center, Herkimer county, N. Y., on the 29th of July, 1839. He is a son of Hiram Inman, who removed with his family to Middleville, in the same county, when the subject of this sketch was only six months old, and thence he removed to Hagaman's Mills, Montgomery county. There he carried on a wood-working business, making furniture, wagon hubs and spokes and other articles, besides doing some work in iron and brass. He died there in the year 1880.

Horace Inman's opportunity for securing education in school was extremely limited. When he was twelve years of age he was taken out of the district school to begin the practical work of his life in his father's factory. But this did not seem like a privation to him, for the work was pleasing to him and such as he was naturally fitted for. He advanced rapidly in practical mechanical knowledge and ability and the business was soon substantially under his management. He remained in that capacity until he was twenty-one years old, when he came to Amsterdam and carried on the sale of furniture where Reese & Co are now located. He continued this business until 1867, but meanwhile in 1864, he went south to Madison Parish, La., and carried on a cotton plantation one year, but the financial outlook was not what he had hoped for and he abandoned the enterprise. In 1868 he went out of the furniture business and for eight months acted as foreman in the shops of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company at West Troy. Following that he spent one year in the Young Wringer Works in Amsterdam, after which he traveled about four years selling machinery and hardware.

In June, 1874, Mr. Inman began the manufacture of paper boxes in Amsterdam, buying out a small business. This proved to be a decisive move on his part and led up to all his later business career. Possessing natural inventive talent of a high order, and acquired mechanical skill, he soon discovered that the making of paper boxes by machinery, then an almost unknown art, presented a problem worthy of his study. Two removals of his business brought him to his present location on Spring street, and there in 1882 he began carrying out the ideas he had formed for perfecting and constructing paper box machinery. He soon afterward organized the American Paper Box Machine Company, which took into its control several of his patents, while he built the machines for them in shops established by himself under contract. The box making business itself passed first to the firm of Horace Inman & Son and later to the Inman Manufacturing Company, which still manufactures machinery for the other company, as well as a large variety of other special machines, a number of them under Mr. Inman's patents. Their works now employ about 175 hands and their catalogue contains descriptions of such machinery as the Inman Slitting and Winding Ma-

chine, Inman Narrow Slitting Machine, Inman Box Covering and Trimming Machine, Inman Double Box Machine, Inman Single Strip Machine, Inman Automatic Cut Off, Inman Top and Bottom Labeling Machine, Inman Staying, Trimming and Setting-Up Machine, Inman Corner Cutter, Envelope Band Slitter, Straw Board Scorer and Cutter, Straw Board Handler, Paper Mill Slitter and Winder, Inman Double Glue Kettle, Inman Folding-Box Machine, Corner Staying Machine, besides others.

In this connection it is proper and of general interest to print herewith the following account of the former condition and late growth of this business, as given by the American Box Machine Company:

Previous to the year 1881, all boxes made in the United States and in all other parts of the world were made of short pieces of paper; usually paper made 20x24 inches, then cut to proper lengths, either shorter than that or longer, spliced together as the case might be, first putting on the trimming strip (be it one or more) and afterwards the band or covering strip, thus requiring three operations for covering the box, the hand pasting each piece separately and putting it on. This necessarily wrinkled and soiled the paper largely, as all glazed paper which is usually used on boxes is covered with water color, the color being held to its place chiefly by glue and beeswax. Most boxes at that time were made with paste, because the labor of putting paste on was much less than putting glue on, which makes a better box and soils the outside of the paper less. Previous to this time nearly all glazed papers which were used in covering boxes was colored in the roll, then cut up in short pieces usually 20x24 inches, then finished under a polishing or glazing machine, each sheet by hand, pulling it through a short distance each time of the stroke. This would leave irregular shaped stripes on the paper and would not finish it evenly. Some paper was finished in a calendering machine and then cut up in the usual marketable lengths—20x24 inches—and furnished the trade in this shape, to be cut to the best advantage for the box maker. There was another great objection to this kind of work, that existed in coloring the paper. The outer edges were liable not to be as deep in color as the center, and by cutting them up for hand work in short pieces they would sometimes cut one way of the paper and sometimes the other, and where they were joined together would vary in color.

The machine for single strip work was invented by Gordon Munro and bought in by the American Box Machine Co. The double strip machine was invented by Horace Inman, the present manager of the American Box Machine Co., he having been in the box business since June 10, 1874, working by hand the same as the others until the year 1881. The company then bought out these covering machines, using a continuous strip of paper pasted on one side and applied to the box automatically; also two or more strips united together, pasted on one side and applied to the box automatically and cut off the proper length. It was very difficult at that time to get any paper made in the roll suitable for box covering purposes. The firm of Doty & McFarlan of New

York city commenced making paper for that purpose in the roll and made a success of it. Other firms were obliged to make the change, and now nearly all the box papers are made and finished entirely in the roll, doing it much better and cheaper than the old way of cutting it up and finishing it. At the present time almost all papers are made and finished in the roll, and if needed in the sheet, are cut up after being finished.

At that time (the year 1881) there was no machine on the market for cutting and winding paper in the roll that would cut glazed paper smoothly and true and wind it up. For a time, until the machine was built which the present company now manufactures for that purpose, the covering machines were a failure on that account. There were several machines which were claimed to do this work, but after practical trial, they failed to work satisfactorily. The company in question have built and put on the market over three hundred of these slitting and winding machines, and nearly every one of them represents a paper box shop and plant of covering machines in addition to it. This creates a saving of labor of about one-half over hand work and an improvement of the quality of the work done; at the same time less skill is required and a more economical use of covering and sticking material is accomplished. This has caused the great change in the paper box manufacturing trade. One of the advantages the present company have of putting these machines on the market, is being connected with the Inman Manufacturing Co., before mentioned, who manufacture paper boxes. The company puts the machines in practical use in their place before they are given out to the public, thus being able to give them a test which no other concern is able to do, as any machine built will develop weak points, and must be improved on, and changes must be made from time to time, before the public can have a machine that will give satisfaction and meet all needs. Although this machine in its infancy was not considered a success by the trade generally, as soon as it developed itself and proved itself a success, there came an army of infringers under all sorts of excuses. No one disputed the fact that the present company and its predecessors were the first who put the practical machine on the market; but they claimed in all cases that our patents were of no value. The company has had very extensive litigation, costing a great many thousands of dollars, and in all cases up to the present date, has won every suit commenced against infringers, and has promptly brought suit against every infringer that could be located. Some suits the infringers would settle before a trial; others were stubbornly resisted until the United States Court, in which all these cases are tried, decided it for the company. Decisions have been had on all important patents in favor of the company in the United States District Courts, and large judgments are now held against an infringer, on which collection is anticipated either from the builder or his customers, who are liable for damages, after the sheriff returns the execution unpaid. Although this company has had decisions in its favor in the high courts of the land, people are still found in business with no knowledge of patent laws and no experience in that line, who assume to be better judges of these patents than the higher courts. It is also found that in the majority of cases the infringers are men of no means, so that if judgment is secured against them it cannot be collected, leaving their customers entirely at the mercy of the company.

The paper box business is a growing one, there being more than double the boxes used in this country that there were ten years ago. Cheapness and quality are the great aims of the public, and the tendency of all manufacturers is to put their goods up in packages which will preserve them from being soiled and transport them in proper shape; therefore the paper box trade is in a very flourishing condition, there being about two hundred tons of paper used every day in paper boxes in this country.

This company claim (and the courts have sustained it) that it is impossible to make a paper box using a continuous strip of paper pasted on one side and automatically applied to the box, without using the machines made by this company, because it is not practicable to use short pieces and paste them and put them on the box.

The Horace Inman Manufacturing Company, they being practical box makers, have seen that there is great need of improvements in other machinery besides the box covering machines, and have devised machines and put them on the market for doing all the kinds of work—scoring, corner cutting, staying up the corners of boxes, and many other improvements in the box trade, to facilitate the manufacture of paper boxes. These machines are on new principles, different from anything heretofore put on the market. It is not to be understood that no improvements have been made by others in that time, but it is claimed that the same general principle is carried out by all other manufacturers that was used fifty years ago. The machinery made by this company is a radical change over the old way; hence it is found that in a great many cases in the trade, where people have used the old style and the old way of machines, no matter how great the improvement in what is now made, they think it is of no value. This is true in reference to the machinery above mentioned. The public is invited to inspect the works at Amsterdam, where nearly all the machinery can be seen running, showing the practicability of the new way and new order of things.

Mr. Inman is a Republican in politics, but not an active partisan, his own affairs demanding and receiving his constant attention. He is a charter member of the Amsterdam Board of Trade and takes a proper degree of interest in the growth of the city. He was married at the age of twenty-one to Elizabeth Joslin, of Perth. They have three children: Harry A., who is now in business with his father; Willard D., deceased; Carrie, and Charles, living at home.

KENNEDY, THOMAS F.—Born in Albany, N. Y., in April, 1852, of Irish parentage, he passed his youth in that city, attaining his education there in the public schools. At the age of fifteen years he became a citizen of Amsterdam, moving there with his father, who was engaged in mercantile pursuits. For five years he filled a clerical place in his father's grocery store and then became its proprietor. His apti-



Thos. F. Kennedy

tude for business, which he evinced in early youth, developed rapidly and he soon became the leading merchant in the grocery line in the city. In 1886 he engaged in the knitted goods industry and is now a member of the firm of Yund, Kennedy & Yund, and their concern is one of the largest and most successful in the knitted goods trade. In his business as in his other undertakings he has shown a capacity for intelligent and adroit business tactics rarely excelled by a young man. In politics Mr. Kennedy is an uncompromising Democrat. He has frequently been approached with political nominations for places of honor, but he has invariably declined them. He has, however, occupied places of distinction on the Board of Water Commissioners and in the official board of the City Hospital, places without compensation in salary or emoluments. Born a Catholic, he clings to the faith of his father and the precepts of the Roman Church. He is regular in his church attendance and liberal in his contributions. In his church relations, as in other walks of life, his devotion and sincerity is never questioned; he is faithful and thorough.

In 1883 Mr. Kennedy married Mary M. Kyne, daughter of the late Patrick Kyne, a lady who enjoys a place in the hearts of all who know her, because of her many virtues. Their home is blessed by four children who are subjects of their constant solicitude. At this writing, January, 1893, he is devoting the greater share of his time to his manufacturing interests, leaving his large mercantile business in the hands of another, it being his purpose, ultimately, to cease being a merchant. He is much respected in every circle in which he moves, and is a citizen who enjoys the confidence of all men.

BORST, HENRY VROMAN, was born at Cobleskill, N. Y., in July, 1853; his father died when he was eleven years old and he was immediately thrown upon his own resources; he started to teach school, working on a farm during vacations; he educated himself at the Cobleskill Free School, Brockport Normal College and Cornell University. After leaving Cornell he studied law with Judge Lamont at Cobleskill for one year and then entered the law office of James C. Dewey, esq., then of Albany, N. Y., where he continued his law studies at the same time taking a course in the Albany Law School. He was

admitted to the bar in May, 1877, and a few days thereafter graduated from the Albany Law School, being one of the four speakers at the Commencement exercises. In January, 1878, he located in Fort Plain and formed a co-partnership with D. C. Shults. Mr. Borst was elected district attorney in 1883 by about seven hundred majority. In January, 1888, he was appointed by Governor Hill county judge of Montgomery county, and was nominated by his party for that office in the fall of the same year, but was defeated by seventy-five majority, although being some six hundred ahead of his ticket. On his appointment to the office of county judge he removed to Amsterdam and entered into a partnership with Judge Westbrook for the practice of law. The firm still continues and enjoys a large practice. Judge Borst has always been a Democrat and in every campaign since he was twenty years old his services have been in demand as a public speaker on the stump and on other occasions. He is a tireless practitioner and never ventures into court with his client without having first ascertained every phase and detail, even to the minutest, involved in the case. This, perhaps, largely accounts for his success before a judge and jury. He is forceful and argumentative in his legal addresses, and is destined to reach a very high position at the bar of the State. He has been twice married, his first wife dying shortly after their marriage, leaving him a legacy in an interesting daughter, who is now grown into early womanhood. His present marriage, like the first, is a most happy one, and his home is gladdened by the presence of three interesting sons.

YOST, GEORGE, was born near Johnstown, Fulton county, N. Y., December 6, 1810. His father was a respected farmer of that time, and he gave his son ample opportunity to secure an education. Entering Union College at the age of fifteen years, he graduated with honor in the class of '29. At that time the late Daniel Cady was one of the foremost lawyers of the interior of this State, and upon his graduation Mr. Yost entered Mr. Cady's office, where he ardently pursued his studies until he was admitted to the bar. It is an indication of Mr. Yost's attainments and character at that time, that Mr. Cady immediately gave him a partnership in his business, which continued to their

mutual satisfaction for several years. In 1846 Mr. Yost took up his permanent residence in Fort Plain, Montgomery county, where he very soon occupied a prominent position in his profession. In 1854 he was elected to the State Senate. Originally a Whig and later a Republican in politics, he took an active interest in the current of important events during the decade preceding the outbreak of the civil war. His record as a legislator in the Senate was an honorable one in all respects and gave satisfaction to his constituency. In 1863 he was elected to the office of county judge and surrogate, and held the place until 1867, when he was defeated for re-election by James H. Cook, of Canajoharie. In this honorable judicial office Judge Yost added to his already established professional reputation. Very few of his decisions were reversed and his impartiality and integrity were never questioned. As a politician Judge Yost made a deep impress upon his time, particularly in his own congressional district, and during the period when Montgomery and Herkimer counties constituted one district, he was one of the leaders in a small coterie who were almost invincible. During the war period Judge Yost gave his unwavering support to the government. After his retirement from public office, he gave his attention to his large practice, devoting himself at all times faithfully to the interests of his clients. Eminently well versed in the law, especially in its various relations to real estate, possessed of a wonderful memory, and a calm and sound judgment, Mr. Yost's counsel was widely sought and very highly respected. At his death his professional brethren in Montgomery and adjoining counties met and united in expressions of profound respect and ardent admiration of the deceased. Judge Yost was prominent in the Masonic Order, a member of Fort Plain Lodge, Hiram Union Chapter, R. A. M. and Utica Commandery, K. T. He was long a director and legal adviser of the Fort Plain National bank, and in all proper ways evinced public spirit and interest in the well-being of the community. For about ten years preceding Judge Yost's death, he substantially retired from business, except as his attention was required for his property interests. His death took place on the 8th day of February, 1888. He had never married, but left in his attractive home two sisters and his niece, Mrs. Mary J. Parsons, who still survive.

YUND, JOSEPH.—The quiet and contented life that Mr. Yund is now being favored with, no one who knows him best, can envy. It has come to him after many years of a most active career of shifting scenes, and vicissitudes common to mankind. Born near Strassburg, Germany, in July, 1823, seventy years have rolled over him and he is yet found in the enjoyment of vigorous health. He was educated in his native land and there learned the spinner's trade. He pursued this vocation until 1866, when he started in the furniture business; that he followed until he had secured to himself a competency, upon which he retired in 1881. At the age of twenty-seven (1850) he married Louisa Bougraff, whose life has been spared to enjoy with him the reward of their early struggles. The union was favored with three sons, Theodore J., Charles C., and Albert, active and reputable business men of Amsterdam. In 1854 Mr. Yund came to America and with the exception of a year or two has passed the interim in Amsterdam where, for many years prior to 1881, he was engaged in business as a cabinet maker and furniture dealer, and in which calling he accumulated a comfortable fortune. As a Catholic he is devoted to the spiritual and temporal interests of St. Joseph's German Catholic Church, in which he holds a responsible office. In fact he was instrumental in building this church, giving largely from his means and devoting his entire attention to its construction. In politics he is a Democrat. He occupies a handsome home and his declining years are fraught with happiness.

YUND, THEODORE J.—In the subject of this brief biographical story we find a most pronounced illustration of the fact that no social prejudices, no class distinction, no differences of birth, can prevent the man of true merit from winning a reward in this land of personal liberty. Mr. Yund was born in October, 1852, in Alsace, then one of the French possessions, now belonging to Germany, of industrious and thrifty parents. At the age of two years, 1854, he came to America with his parents, who located in this county. His boyhood was passed in the usual way. He attended the public schools and his home training taught him to be frugal and industrious, qualities that he preserved and which became of inestimable value to him in climbing



Chas C Hund





Chapman & Co.

Wm. C. Cund

to the place among men to which he has attained. At the tender age of fourteen he began his active business career by accepting a clerical place in the furniture store of Joseph Yund & Co., at Amsterdam, the senior member of which was his father. He soon evinced such aptitude for a mercantile pursuit that in 1872 he became an equal partner with his father in the furniture trade, the firm name being Joseph Yund & Son. This relation was most successful and in 1881 he became sole proprietor of the business which had grown to be larger and more successful than any of its kind between the cities in the Mohawk Valley. He engaged in business to succeed and he was constant and tireless in his determination to accomplish this end. In 1886 Mr. Yund became interested in the knitted goods industry on quite an extensive scale. This required so much of his attention that he associated with him in the furniture trade his youngest brother in 1890 and the firm name became Theodore J. Yund & Brother, and it so remains. Connected with him in the knitted goods industry were his brother Charles C., Thos. F. Kyne and his brother-in-law, Thomas F. Kennedy. This firm soon attained a commanding place among manufacturers of knitted underwear uninterruptedly until 1892, when Mr. Kyne relinquished his interest in the copartnership and the firm was reorganized under the name of Yund, Kennedy & Yund, and is so being continued. The capacity of the establishment has recently been doubled and is a highly prosperous institution. In 1879 Mr. Yund married Miss Elizabeth L., daughter of the late Michael Kennedy, and the union has ever proved a most happy one. He is a member of St. Joseph's German Catholic church and liberal in his offers to its support. In politics he is a Democrat, but rarely becomes identified with active politics. He is known for his stirring business qualities and social relations and is a representative citizen of his adopted city.

YUND, CHARLES C.—Probably no young man in the county of Montgomery is entitled to a greater measure of praise for the financial success that has attended his tireless efforts to win a place among men than has the gentleman whose name gives title to this hasty review of an honorable and active life. Born in Fort Hunter in

1855, where his parents located upon their arrival in this country as natives of Alsace, Germany, his childhood and youth were not unlike those of country-born boys. His father finding his business, that of a spinner, not sufficiently remunerative, sought a broader field by settling in Amsterdam. Here Mr. Yund attended the public schools and the academy, thus attaining an education that has served him satisfactorily in his business pursuits since he reached man's estate. He, evidently, resolved in early life to reach that goal where a competency is afforded those who have the perseverance and tact to reach it, for his career has been that of a man constantly alert, ever alive to the requirements needed in a useful and valuable manhood. When he completed his academic course he engaged in a clerical capacity in the clothing trade. He served three years in this capacity and then learned the trade of a cabinet maker, a calling he acquired that it might be found valuable to him in later life. He then became known as a clothing merchant in a small way. But he had the elements of success in him and his business was rapidly developed, and in 1881 he purchased a hotel property on the principal thoroughfare of the city which, at a cost of several thousand dollars, he converted into an establishment particularly adapted to the clothing trade, rendering it the most attractive business building on the street. With enlarged facilities and possessed of a sturdy determination to win, he pushed on, soon becoming the most enterprising and extensive clothier in the county. He was a liberal patron of the advertising columns of the press, generous in his subscriptions to praiseworthy objects and active in all undertakings calculated to promote the welfare of his city. In 1886 he became interested in the knitted goods industry, which has proved a successful venture. At this writing, January, 1892, he is engaged in closing out his clothing business with a view to devoting his entire attention to knitted goods as a member of the firm of Yund, Kennedy & Yund. In 1883 he married Miss Theresa Kennedy, youngest daughter of the late Michael Kennedy. They have been blessed with three interesting children and their home is one of the prettiest and most attractive in the city. Politically Mr. Yund is a Democrat and while he always finds delight in the success of his party, he never seeks to be identified in its councils. He is a communicant

in and attendant of St. Joseph's Catholic church. He is practically a self-made man and is in the enjoyment of the well-earned confidence and respect of all who are favored with his acquaintance.

WENDELL, JOHN DUNLAP, county judge and surrogate of Montgomery county, N. Y., was born at Sprout Brook, in the town of Canajoharie, N. Y., September 13, 1840, and is the third son in the family of ten children of the late Benjamin Wendell and Sarah (Fox) Wendell. His father was a shoemaker and postmaster at Sprout Brook until 1856, when he purchased and moved on a farm between Sprout Brook and Fort Plain, so that the subject of this sketch was compelled to work out among the farmers in the summer and in the winter attended the district school at Sprout Brook, and after school in the winter, while his father was postmaster, he carried the U. S. mail each day from Buel to Sprout Brook, a distance of about two miles, and doing it most of the time on foot. He was examined by John H. Brookman, the superintendent of public instruction, now of the town of Minden, and granted a certificate to teach school, and commenced teaching at Mapletown, in the town of Canajoharie, Montgomery county, N. Y., teaching in the winter and working on the farm in summer, until the fall of 1861, when he entered the Albany Law School, and graduated from that school in the spring of 1862, and he became a member of the bar the same year, locating at Fort Plain, Montgomery county, N. Y., in the office of ex-Judge Yost, who then was county judge and surrogate of Montgomery county, N. Y., and in 1874 formed a partnership with his brother, Fred Fox Wendell, which firm continued in business until the spring of 1883, when the firm was dissolved on account of Fred Fox Wendell accepting the position of superintendent of the tax department of the West Shore Railroad, which position he has occupied ever since. During the time this firm was in business they had charge of the land department of the West Shore Railroad in obtaining the right of way through Montgomery, Herkimer and Schenectady counties, trying all the commission cases, making searches, drafting deeds, etc.; this firm having done a large and lucrative business, and having been connected with some of the most important trials had in

the Mohawk valley during said time. After said firm dissolved another law firm was formed composed of Judge Wendell and Edwin S. Vandeußen, who had been with the firm of J. D. & F. F. Wendell from 1876. The subject of this sketch is now and has always been a Republican and has been frequently called to give advice and counsel to the party, having been chairman of the Republican County Committee, and in 1875 was nominated and elected by a large majority to the office of district attorney of the county of Montgomery, which office he held from 1875 to 1878, and in 1888 was nominated and elected county judge and surrogate of Montgomery county, which position he now holds, and he is so well versed in the law and the practice pertaining to Surrogate court that the decisions made by him, and many of them having been appealed, have not been reversed by the appellate court. In 1862 he married Luemma, daughter of Thomas King, late of Fort Plain, N. Y. He is a member of the Holland Society of New York, and is now and has been for some time one of the vice-presidents of the New York State Bar Association, is also president of the Fort Plain Social and Literary Club, and is one of the directors of the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank, a state bank located at Fort Plain, N. Y., he having taken a prominent part in incorporating the said bank. He is now and has been since 1863 a member of the Methodist Church of Fort Plain. He is now and has been since 1883 attorney for the West Shore Railroad.



APR 75



N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA

